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FARM LABOUR SUPPLY
REPORT



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REPORT

OF THE

SELECT COMMITTEE

ON

FARM LABOUR SUPPLY.

Printed by Order of the Legislative Council.

AUGUST, 1907.

CAPE TOWN :
CAPE TIMES LIMITED,
1907.

ORDERS OF THE COUNCIL.

9th July, 1907.

ORDERED : That a Select Committee be appointed to inquire into and report upon the question as to the measures to be taken to supply farmers with labourers ; the Committee to have power to take evidence and call for papers, and to consist of Messrs. J. N. P. de Villiers, Barrable, Rogers, Hurndall, Michau, Wilmot, and Claassens (Mover).

24th July, 1907.

ORDERED : That at the meeting of the Select Committee on Farm Labour Supply, to be held to-morrow, two of the members form a quorum for the purpose of examining the witnesses who have been summoned to attend for that day.*

* The Council adjourned from 24th July until 6th August, 1907.

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REPORT

OF THE

SELECT COMMITTEE appointed by Order of the Legislative Council dated the 9th July, 1907, to inquire into and report upon the question as to the measures to be taken to supply farmers with labourers; the Committee to have power to take evidence and call for papers and to consist of Messrs. J. N. P. DE VILLIERS, BARRABLE, ROGERS, HURNDALL, MICHAU, WILMOT and CLAASSENS (mover).

Your Committee, having considered the evidence taken by them, beg to report as follows:—

1. The great and evident want of farm labour, particularly in the Western, North-Western and Midland districts of the Colony, naturally exercises a very prejudicial effect upon the prosperity of the Colony, and points to the necessity of efficient and immediate measures being taken to remedy it.

2. According to the evidence there are many natives in the Transkeian Territories and other native locations, and they have increased largely of late.

3. What the cause of the scarcity of farm labourers is, it is not easy to state, as it is not quite clear to your Committee; but as far as can be ascertained, many natives go to the mines, work there for three or six months, and on returning to their homes they assist many others who are leading an idle life there, and who are provided by law with a piece of land which, however, does not provide a sufficient means of livelihood.

4. Your Committee also found that the Railway Department employ mostly farm labourers on the railway line, and, as they keep their wives and children with them in the railway cottages, these practically live an idle life. This is one reason why domestic servants are hardly obtainable.

5. Your Committee would recommend the following :—

- (a) That the Magistrates be instructed by Government, where natives are to be found, to arrange with the natives, through the headmen of every tribe, to go out to work, and make arrangements according to the offers made in the applications, and that 10s. per head (on those fit for work) be paid in advance to the agent or the Magistrate for railway expenses, food, etc.
- (b) The natives to come under contract for one year, or, if they are willing, for a longer period.
- (c) That the Government be requested, if possible, not to employ men who have women folk with them on the railway lines, nor men who belong to the farm labourer class.
- (d) That the Government be requested to convey farm labourers at a special fare from any part of the country and in any numbers as noted now in the Tariff Book.

6. Your Committee are strongly of opinion that if municipalities would expel all idle people of a workable age from their locations it would go a long way towards solving the labour difficulty, as there are large numbers of people in these locations who are living in idleness and should be made to work. The scenes in these locations are often most disgraceful, and a menace to public safety. This is supported by every witness examined, and legislation should be introduced in connection with this matter. In this connection

your Committee wish to draw the Government's attention to the Report of the Select Committee on Stock Thefts (C.4—'05), and recommend that immediate steps be taken to carry out the recommendations of that Committee with reference to Municipal Locations. The subject is of such great and pressing importance as to make it a duty to urge its immediate special consideration upon both Parliament and Government.

H. J. H. CLAASSENS,
Chairman.

Committee Rooms,
Legislative Council,
30th August, 1907.

RAPPORT

VAN HET

GEKOZEN COMITÉ aangesteld op last van den Wetgevenden Raad gedateerd 9 Juli. 1907, om onderzoek te doen naar en rapport uit te brengen over de kwestie met betrekking tot de middelen, die bij de hand genomen moeten worden om boeren met arbeiders te voorzien; het Comité macht te hebben om getuigenis in te winnen en om papieren te vragen en te bestaan uit de Heeren J. N. P. DE VILLIERS, BARRABLE, ROGERS, HURNDALL, MICHAU, WILMOT en CLAASSENS (den Voortesler).

Uw Comité het afgenomen getuigenis overwogen hebbende, wenscht te rapporteeren, als volgt:—

1. De groote en blijkbare behoefte aan arbeiders op de boerenplaatsen, inzonderheid in de Westelijke Noord-Westerlijke en Middellandsche distrikten van de Kolonie oefent natuurlijk een zeer schadelijk gevolg uit op de bloei van de Kolonie en wijst aan hoe noodzakelijk het is dat doeltreffende en dadelijke maatregelen worden genomen, om zulks te verhelpen.

2. Volgens het ingewonnen getuigenis, zijn er vele inboorlingen in de Grondgebieden van de Transkei en andere inboorlingen lokaties en hun getal is grootelijks toegenomen in den laatsten tijd.

3. Wat de oorzaak is van de schaarschheid van arbeiders op boerenplaatsen is niet zoo gemakkelijke te zeggen en het is, niet geheel en al duidelijk aan uw Comité, doch zoover men te weten kan komen, gaan er vele inboorlingen naar de mijnen, werken daar voor drie of zes

maanden en wanneer zij terugkeeren naar hunne woningen, helpen zij vele anderen, die een lui leven er door brengen en die door de Wet voorzien zijn met een stuk land, dat hun niet een genoegzaam middel van bestaan geeft.

4. Uw Comité vond ook dat het Spoorweg Departement meestal arbeiders van boeren plaatsen op de spoorweglijn gebruikt en daar zij hun vrouwen en kinderen met zich in de spoorweg huisjes hebben, leiden zij werkelijk een lui leven. Dit is de reden waarom huisbedienden bijna onverkrijgbaar zijn.

Uw Comité zou het volgende aan de hand willen geven :—

- (a) Dat de Magistraten door het Gouvernement worden gelast, waar inboorlingen gevonden worden om schikkingen te treffen met de inboorlingen, door middel van de hoofden van elke stam, om uit te gaan en te werken en overeenkomsten te maken volgens de aanbiedingen in de aanvragen gedaan en dat 10s. per hoofd (op dezulken, die geschikt zijn voor werk) vooruit worden betaald aan den Agent of den Magistraat voor onkosten per spoor en voor voedsel enz.
- (b) Dat de inboorlingen onder kontrakt komen voor één jaar of, indien zij gewillig zijn, voor een langer tijdperk.
- (c) Dat het Gouvernement worde verzocht indien mogelijk niet mannen die vrouwen met zich hebben op de Spoorweg lijnen in dienst te nemen, ook niet mannen behorende tot de Klas van arbeiders van boeren plaatsen.
- (d) Dat het Gouvernement verzocht worde arbeiders op boeren plaatsen tegen een speciaal tarief van eenig deel van het land te vervoeren en wel in getalen als thans aangeduid in het Tarieven Boek.

6. Uw Comité is sterk van opinie dat indien Municipaliteiten alle luie lieden van een ouderdom, geschikt voor werk, uit hunne lokaties zouden uitzetten, het grootelijks dienen zou om de arbeidsmoeielijkheid op te lossen, daar er een groot aantal menschen in deze lokaties is, die in luiheid leven en verplicht moeten worden te werken. De tooneelen in deze lokaties zijn dikwijls aller schandelijkst en een bedreiging voor de publieke veiligheid. Dit wordt gesteund door elken getuige, die ondervraagd werd en Wetgeving behoort met betrekking tot deze zaak ingediend te worden. In dit verband wenscht uw Comité ook de aandacht van het Gouvernement te bepalen bij het Rapport van het Gekozen Comité op Vee Diefstallen [C.4—05.] en beveelt aan dat onmiddellijke stappen worden genomen om de aanbevelingen van dat Comité uit te voeren met betrekking tot Municipale Lokaties. De zaak is van zoo een groote en dringend gewicht, dat het een plicht wordt voor beide het Parlement en het Gouvernement om haar onmiddellijk en speciaal te overwegen.

H. J. H. CLAASSENS,
Voorzitter.

Comité Kamers.
Wetgevende Raad.
30 Augustus. 1907.

PROCEEDINGS OF COMMITTEE.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE, appointed by Order of the Legislative Council, dated the 9th July, 1907, to inquire into and report upon the question as to the measures to be taken to supply farmers with labourers: the Committee to have power to take evidence and call for papers, and to consist of Messrs. J. N. P. DE VILLIERS, BARRABLE, ROGERS, HURNDALL, MICHAU, WILMOT, and CLAASSENS (Mover).

Thursday, 11th July, 1907.

PRESENT :

Mr. Claassens.

Mr. Michau.

Mr. Wilmot.

Mr. Rogers.

Mr. Hurndall.

Order of Council of 9th July, 1907, appointing Committee, read.

Resolved : That Mr. Claassens be Chairman of the Committee.

Resolved : That the Chairman and Mr. Rogers interview Mr. E. E. Dower, Acting Secretary to Native Affairs Department, with the object of obtaining from him the names of suitable witnesses to give evidence to this Committee.

Adjourned until Monday, 15th July, 1907, at 10.30 a.m.

Monday, 15th July, 1907.

PRESENT :

Mr. CLAASSENS (Chairman).

Mr. Hurndall.

Mr. Wilmot.

Mr. Rogers.

Mr. J. N. P. de Villiers.

Mr. Barrable.

Minutes read and confirmed.

The Chairman reported that, in pursuance of the Resolution adopted at the previous meeting, he and Mr. Rogers had interviewed Mr. Dower, and that gentleman had submitted a list of witnesses whose evidence he thought would be useful to the Committee.

Colonel W. E. M. Stanford, C.B., C.M.G., and Mr. J. R. Quinn examined.

Resolved : To examine Messrs. Dugmore, M.L.A., Powrie, M.L.A., Ormond, M.L.A., Gladwin, R.M., Tsolo, and the Rev. P. Sihlali at some future date.

Resolved : To examine Mr. G. E. Dugmore, M.L.A., and Mr. J. A. F. Gladwin at next meeting.

Adjourned until Wednesday, 17th July, 1907, at 10.30 a.m.

Wednesday, 17th July, 1907.

PRESENT :

Mr. CLAASSENS (Chairman).

Mr. Wilmot.		Mr. Rogers.
Mr. Hurndall.		Mr. Barrable.
Mr. J. N. P. de Villiers.		Mr. Michau.

Minutes read and confirmed.

The Committee deliberated.

Resolved : To summon the Rev. Sihlali, of Tsolo, to attend on Thursday, 25th July, 1907.

Resolved : To examine Messrs. F. W. Powrie, M.L.A., and H. Collins, M.L.A., at next meeting.

Mr. G. E. Dugmore, M.L.A., and Mr. J. A. F. Gladwin, examined.
Adjourned until Monday, 22nd July, 1907, at 10.30 o'clock a.m.

Monday, 22nd July, 1907.

PRESENT :

Mr. CLAASSENS (Chairman).

Mr. Wilmot.		Mr. Hurndall.
Mr. Barrable.		

Minutes read and confirmed.

Messrs. F. W. Powrie, M.L.A., and H. Collins, M.L.A., examined.

Resolved : To examine the Honourable A. J. Fuller, M.L.A., Mr. D. J. Viljoen, M.L.A., and the Reverend Sihlali at next meeting.

Adjourned until Thursday, 25th July, 1907, at 10 a.m.

Thursday, 25th July, 1907.

PRESENT :

Mr. CLAASSENS (Chairman).

Mr. Wilmot.		Mr. J. N. P. de Villiers.
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Minutes read and confirmed.

Clerk read Order of Council dated the 24th July, 1907, ordering that two of the members form a quorum at this meeting for the purpose of examining the witnesses who have been summoned to attend to-day.

The Chairman intimated that the Honourable A. J. Fuller, M.L.A., and Mr. D. J. Viljoen, M.L.A., were unable to attend that day.

The Reverend Simon Peter Sihlali, examined.

Resolved : To examine the Honourable A. J. Fuller, M.L.A., and Mr. D. J. Viljoen, M.L.A., at next meeting.

Adjourned until Wednesday, 7th August, 1907, at 10.30 a.m.

Wednesday, 7th August, 1907.

PRESENT :

Mr. CLAASSENS (Chairman).

Mr. Wilmot.
Mr. Rogers.
Mr. Barrable.

Mr. J. N. P. de Villiers.
Mr. Hurndall.

Minutes read and confirmed.

The Honourable A. J. Fuller, M.L.A., examined.

Resolved : To examine Messrs. D. J. Viljoen, M.L.A., and L. F. Zietsman, M.L.A., at next meeting.

Adjourned until Friday, 9th August, 1907, at 10 a.m.

Thursday, 9th August, 1907.

PRESENT :

Mr. CLAASSENS (Chairman).

Mr. Wilmot.
Mr. Hurndall.
Mr. Michau.

Mr. Rogers.
Mr. J. N. P. de Villiers.

Minutes read and confirmed.

The Chairman stated that he had caused certain questions to be telegraphed to Mr. Erskine, a Labour Agent at Queenstown, and had received replies thereto.

The Clerk read the questions and replies.

Resolved : That the questions and answers be incorporated in the proceedings of the Committee, and that the Clerk be instructed to telegraph to Mr. Erskine, asking that gentleman to furnish a full memorandum on the subject.

Mr. D. J. Viljoen, M.L.A., examined.

Mr. Claassens vacated the chair, which was thereupon taken by Mr. Wilmot.

Mr. L. F. Zietsman, M.L.A., examined.

The Committee deliberated.

Resolved : To examine Messrs. G. Blaine, M.L.A., and W. Thomas, M.L.A., at next meeting.

Adjourned until Tuesday, 13th August, 1907, at 11.30 a.m.

Tuesday, 13th August, 1907.

PRESENT :

Mr. CLAASSENS (Chairman).

Mr. Hurndall.
Mr. Michau.

Mr. J. N. P. de Villiers.
Mr. Barrable.

Minutes read and confirmed.

Mr. W. Thomas, M.L.A., examined.

Mr. G. Blaine, M.L.A., who had been summoned to give evidence, appeared and stated that he had omitted to ask for leave,

and consequently was unable to give his evidence that day. He thought that, in any case, his evidence would prove of little value to the inquiry.

The Committee deliberated.

Resolved : Not to examine Mr. G. Blaine, M.L.A.

Resolved : To examine Colonel Warren, M.L.A., and General Sir Edward Brabant, K.C.M.G., M.L.A., at next meeting.

Adjourned until Thursday, 15th August, 1907, at 11 o'clock a.m.

Thursday, 15th August, 1907.

PRESENT :

Mr. CLAASSENS (Chairman).

Mr. Wilmot.

Mr. Barrable.

Mr. J. N. P. de Villiers.

Mr. Rogers.

Mr. Michau.

Minutes read and confirmed.

Colonel W. J. Warren, C.M.G., M.L.A., and General Sir E. Y. Brabant, K.C.M.G., M.L.A., examined.

The Committee deliberated.

Resolved : That the Chairman, together with Messrs. de Villiers, Rogers and Wilmot draft a report on receipt of the Memorandum from Mr. Erskine, and submit it at the next meeting.

Adjourned until Wednesday, 21st August, 1907.

Wednesday, 21st August, 1907.

PRESENT :

Mr. CLAASSENS (Chairman).

Mr. Wilmot.

Mr. Barrable.

Mr. Rogers.

Mr. Michau.

Mr. Hurndall.

Mr. J. N. P. de Villiers.

Minutes read and confirmed.

Mr. R. J. Dick examined.

The Committee deliberated.

The Chairman stated that Mr. Erskine had not yet sent his memorandum.

Resolved : To send a telegram to Mr. Erskine, the Labour Agent, asking him for his memorandum.

Adjourned until Friday, 30th August, 1907, at 11.30 a.m.

Friday, 30th August, 1907.

PRESENT :

Mr. CLAASSENS (Chairman).

Mr. J. N. P. de Villiers.

Mr. Michau.

Mr. Hurndall.

Mr. Rogers.

Minutes read and confirmed.

Clerk read reply telegram from Mr. Erskine, Labour Agent, Queenstown, stating that he was indisposed.

Chairman brought up Draft Report of Sub-Committee.

Draft Report considered and amended.

Resolved : That the Draft Report, as amended, be adopted.

Resolved : That the Chairman report accordingly.

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON FARM LABOUR SUPPLY.

Monday, 15th July, 1907.

PRESENT.

MR. CLAASSENS (Chairman).

Mr. Wilmot.

Mr. Hurndall.

Mr. Rogers.

Mr. Barrable.

Mr. J. N. P. De Villiers.

*Colonel Walter Ernest Mortimer Stanford, C.B.,
C.M.G., examined.*

1. *Chairman.*] Up to a short time ago I believe you held the position of Secretary to the Native Affairs Department and Chief Magistrate of the Transkeian Territories?—Yes.

Col. W. E. M.
Stanford,
C.B., C.M.G.
—
July 15, 1907.

2. Do you know the object of this Committee?—On the notice I received I saw it was in connection with labour supply.

3. Can you make any recommendation as to what is the best way of getting labourers for the farmers?—In what part of the country?

4. Anywhere where it is required?—Do you refer to supply of native labour?

5. Yes.—The practice which I find obtains amongst farmers of the Eastern Province is to induce native families to come and reside on their properties, and although the rate of wages is not high, the natives have the advantage of a bit of land being given them to cultivate and of running a certain quantity of stock, and they remain on

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Standford,
C.B., C.M.G.
—
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the farms, and from these families the farmers draw their labour supply. Under the Native Locations Act the law provides that farmers may have these people on their farms, and although they are called upon to pay hut tax, no licence is required on their behalf as in cases where the natives are living on farms as tenants, and are known as squatters. Then again there are farmers in the Eastern Province who object to the native labour tenant system, and prefer to hire natives by the month, paying current rates; but the labour tenant system has been generally adopted. I take it to meet the requirements of farmers as against the requirements of the mines and other centres of labour, where the rates of pay are higher than the farmer gives or can afford to give.

6. They do not take families on the mines?—No, but I dare say in course of time the mining people will establish locations in the neighbourhood of their mines and find such accommodation for the native labourer that he will be able not only to accommodate himself, but his family as well, just as the Government has done in the neighbourhood of Cape Town at Ndabeni Location and New Brighton Location near Port Elizabeth. The fact that natives can bring their families with them to these centres of employment leads to greater duration in their employment. Instead of coming for only a few months, they will remain a longer time, and I know some instances here where natives have remained for years, being able to have their families with them.

7. What part of the country are you speaking of now in regard to locations?—The one near Cape Town—Ndabeni Location, and New Brighton near Port Elizabeth.

8. Are you acquainted with the Transkeian Territories?—Yes.

9. Do not you think we can more easily get labour from there than from the location near Cape Town?—You will need to advise the natives

of the terms you can offer to induce them to come further westward. In the past the Western Province has mainly depended on the Hottentots and coloured people for their labour supply. The Hottentot has been a diminishing quantity. On the other hand, the natives employed by farmers in the Eastern Province are still there, but their habit is not to come very far westward as a general rule. It is a question of establishing confidence as to treatment and regular payment of wages, and then you have to consider necessarily the competition which is against you by the higher rates of wages offered by the mining and other centres of labour, but certainly the native is not so unwilling now as he was in the past to go great distances from home in search of employment.

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10. The special fares in operation on the railway have also, I suppose, helped towards this end?—Yes, and they have overcome even their aversion to the sea. During the past few years they have gone to German South-West Africa in considerable numbers, and they have had to go there by sea.

11. Do you think it would be best to get labourers from the locations in the Transkei?—I am not quite clear as to how the Committee proposes to get the labour. You could let your requirements be made public amongst the people, but a movement of this kind is not one which can be arranged in a day amongst the native people. You want to divert the labour from the channels in which it is now running.

12. What would you recommend?—I recommend that as regards the Colony proper where I think you would be more likely to get labourers than from the Transkeian Territories you should let the requirements of farmers be made known through the Cape Police Officers, Inspectors of Native Locations and Resident Magistrates, and efforts by these officers should be made to induce natives to move further westward in search of work, and I think you may meet with some success. The strict

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enforcement of the Locations Act has led to the removal of natives on private property beyond the limits prescribed by our laws, and these people are in difficulties as to where they should settle down. I imagine amongst them you would find families willing to take service.

13. *Mr. Wilmot.*] You are aware it is the custom in Peddie for the native women to do all the work and the men to be idle?—No, I am not.

14. What work do the fingoos and other natives do?—You have to bear in mind the conditions are changed now. Previously the men had to be the warriors and the protectors of the stock, and the domestic work fell on the women. The amount of cultivation then was very small. Apart from this the work at the kraal was very evenly divided. For hut building the men had to cut the wattles and put up the structure, and the women did the thatching and plastering. The men had charge of the stock and had to see to their milking and protection. Now under the changed conditions the plough is used and not the hoe, and the men and boys attend to the plough and also to the reaping, and go out to service.

15. But I notice in Peddie that the hoe was used by the women, and the men did not seem to work. Do you think they use the plough very much now?—I understood the plough was much in evidence there. Was it cultivation or weeding you saw, and what was the time of the year?

16. I forget the time of the year; but I understood the women did all the work with the hoe?—That is not my experience.

17. There are a good many idle men amongst them who do not go to work?—There are a good many natives who may be seen lying about the kraal unoccupied, certainly.

18. Do not you think for their good it would be a good thing to levy a stringent poll tax on all men who do not work?—No, that was tried under the Glen Grey Act.

19. You mean to say they will not pay it?—
 You cannot find the class described. You placed
 the limit at three months service in a year, or a
 certain period covering three years, and the fact
 was that when enquiries were made, they nearly
 all had been employed. The natives divide the
 work amongst themselves—two will go to work on
 the mines for six months under conditions very
 often trying, and two others attend to the lands
 and the stock at home. When the two come back
 from the mines you see two men in the kraal
 whom you think idle fellows. As a matter of fact
 they have been to service.

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20. They are idle for a certain time?—Not necessarily. They are looking after the interests of the kraal—the stock and their families.

21. To promote industry, is there no legislative measure you can think of?—The real solution is—what is making the native take to more continuous labour—increased wants.

22. What means would you use to increase these wants?—Simply the ordinary pressure of our civilization. We are making as rapid advance as we could expect. When I went to Engcobo I do not suppose there were in a year 50 men who went out to work. Now returns for that district show that something like 5,000 a year go out. Year by year the labour output of natives in this Colony and the Transkeian Territories is increasing. If you go to trading stations in the native territories, you will find the reason. In 1875 you would see in the shops some blankets, brass wire, beads, and red ochre, but you hardly saw a plough. That was about the limit of the trader's stock. Now, if you go into any trading station, you will find that the store is stocked with groceries, with clothing, with ploughs, and all manner of other articles, indicating a great change in the condition of the people. Their wants have increased, and that is not by special legislation. We have not passed any Act that men should not use the hoe, or that

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they should buy coffee and tea; they have adopted new ways owing to the pressure upon them of our civilization. The locations, too, are becoming overcrowded, and that is driving the natives from a pastoral life to an agricultural life.

23. Have you nothing to suggest for getting labourers for farmers from Native Territories?—I said before that the way the Eastern Province farmers had, was to get families on their farms. The natives have not been in the habit of coming far west, because the Western and North Western Districts depended in the past on the Hottentots, who seem to have disappeared, and it will take time to get the natives to move out of their ordinary spheres of labour in any numbers.

24. What was the chief cause of the disappearance of the Hottentot?—It is difficult to say. Partly intermixture of race, and he had no self control in respect of drink, I think that had a good deal to do with it.

25. Is there any practical system of agency you could recommend?—The best is the agency you have—the officers of the Government and the Police.

26. *Mr. De Villiers.*] Do you say that those men affected by the Glen Grey Act are employed?—We found the great majority of them could claim that they were employed. The poll tax is unjust in principle.

27. If that is so, can you say why there was so much dissatisfaction against the Glen Grey Act?—If the native showed he worked, the Act was impotent as regards him. The Act merely intended to encourage men to labour, yet we found great dissatisfaction amongst these people against the working of the Glen Grey Act?—The native is strongly opposed to compulsory labour, and that clause threw a stigma on them. We collected only something like £700 in three years from natives liable to pay the Labour tax. The gain was not worth the trouble and the suspicion and dissatisfaction it caused amongst the native people.

28. Where is it likely we should be able to obtain the requisite labour for this Colony if that is the case with regard to the natives in the Native Territories?—As I pointed out the difficulty is the competition of the mining and other centres of labour where the native is offered higher wages than the farmer considers he can afford to pay, and it is not a just proposition that the native should be compelled to work for employers paying less than he can get elsewhere. Of course, the native, like anyone else, likes to have his family with him, and the farmers in the Eastern Province are finding that by offering facilities to the native to bring his family with him, he will come and work. I know instances where natives have stayed on farms for generations. I was in Bechuanaland some time ago, and met a farmer who said he had no difficulty about labour supply. He had natives attached to his family for two generations. He had been living in the District of Graaff-Reinet, and when he intended leaving for Bechuanaland he said to his natives “What will you do?”—They said “We will follow you.”

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29. Do not you think apart from the officials you have mentioned it may be a good thing to appoint a special agent to obtain labour?—No. Unless you appoint an agency having representatives in every district which would be very expensive, and then it would be interfering with the duties of the officers already there. You have your staff of Magistrates and Police Officers and Inspectors of Native Locations, and you would just be adding a fifth wheel to the coach. We have had experience of that. The Government appointed labour agents in the Transkei and we found that they had to communicate with the Magistrates. The agent could not be everywhere and of course the Magistrates assisted by the Chiefs, Headmen and the Police could get into touch with the people. I am afraid what you suggest would involve the country in needless expenditure.

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30. You think these officers would be willing to undertake these duties because they are apart from their ordinary duties?—It is just a question of the Government being convinced of the necessity of such a measure and the Officers must carry out the instructions given them. That is what is being done in connection with the supply for Johannesburg. The representative of the Transvaal Government is now in the Transkei Territories holding meetings and it is the Magistrates who will see to the forwarding of the natives and assist them in getting to Johannesburg. If there are natives willing to go to the North Western Districts to work for farmers the Magistrates could assist them in the same way or endeavour to get them to go to the North Western Districts or the Western Districts just as well as to Johannesburg.

31. What sort of accommodation would the natives be satisfied with?—A decently built hut is sufficient for the native, something the women could keep clean. Then in addition there should be some land for them to cultivate as it would serve to occupy them and the women in their leisure hours, and they should be given an opportunity of getting some stock.

32. These families would certainly have far greater advantages—that is the head of the family will have his family with him. This system of employment would be more satisfactory to them?—It would be more satisfactory to some, but not to all. It would be more satisfactory to the man who is no longer happy in an overcrowded location, and wants to get away with his wife and family; but it would not be so satisfactory to the man who has his family established and is the owner of a holding and goes to the mines in order to get money to pay for household expenses.

33. *Mr. Rogers.*] I think the object of this Committee is to ascertain as near as possible whether there is any good supply of native labour available

in the Territories?—I do not think that at the present time you would find any considerable supply of native labour available under the conditions we have been describing for the North-Western Districts because the natives in the Transkeian territories are in the habit of getting employment at the mining centres in the Transvaal, at Kimberley and in the Orange River Colony, and besides that many of them go to the ports to work—they go to Durban and elsewhere. I do not say that the supply from there cannot be developed by advertising the wants of farmers in the Western Districts and give an opportunity to people to begin work amongst them if they so desire.

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34. Then you think there is a dislike on their part to go into the North-Western Districts though they would go to the Midland and Eastern Districts to work as farm labourers?—I think they have no dislike in any direction now. It is a question of getting the employment they desire, the wages they look for and the treatment they appreciate. They have no prejudice. They go to German South West Africa which is trying with regard to climate and surroundings.

35. Do they take their wives to German South West Africa?—No.

36. They are all single men?—No, married men as well; but they do not take their families.

37. Are they becoming congested in the native territories?—Many parts are thickly occupied and the native has had to become more of an agriculturist than pastoralist as in years gone by. He is becoming more of a labourer now.

38. I suppose a large number of these people have individual tenure of land?—They have that in the District of Glen Grey, and in the free districts of Fingoland, and they have tickets of occupation which amount to individual tenure at Xalanga, but other districts are tribally occupied.

39. What rights have the people to the land

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who have not individual tenure? Can they be ejected at any time?—Not with any justice. Large tribes like the Tembus and others have come under our Government voluntarily, and in so doing have been promised protection in respect of the occupation of their land.

40. I suppose there are congested centres of population?—I do not know that I can say that they are congested. Certainly they are very thickly occupied in many parts.

41. Those living in the locations can live?—Many of them now have to supplement their living in these locations by labour, and they do so. It is that fact which accounts for natives going from the Transkeian Territories to look for work outside. It is the necessity which is upon them for providing for their wants by other means than simply cultivation and care of stock.

42. The idea is abroad that there are large numbers of young fellows lolling about these locations doing nothing. Is that so?—Many of these men no doubt are not regularly occupied as most Europeans are day after day in work. That is so, but on the other hand the numbers taking to work are steadily increasing owing, as I said before, to the pressure of civilization and their increasing wants.

43. Some years ago it was a very common thing to see native families trekking from the territories right away to Beaufort West and Western districts, but now we do not see anything of that going on. Can you ascribe any reason for this stoppage?—The higher rate of wages at the mining centres.

44. There is really no further attractive influence about these kraals than there was formerly, which causes these people to remain there?—I should think not. I should say less, because living in these crowded locations now is harder for the native, and this is indicated by the larger numbers which now go out to work.

45. *Mr. Hurndall.*] You say you do not think the supply could be had from the Transkei?—Not immediately.

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46. Is there any other source from which you think we can draw labour?—I think I said the proper source might be found in those districts in the Colony where the Location Acts are now being strictly enforced, and that enforcement has led to the ejection of natives from farms which exceed the numbers allowed by the Act. These people are in a difficulty about finding places to settle, and possibly inducements to work in the North-Western Districts might be sufficient to take them there.

47. Can you name any district particularly where that would be the case?—I hear of instances of this kind in Victoria East and Fort Beaufort. Fort Peddie and King William's Town might also be tried.

48. Have you any knowledge of Alexandria?—Yes.

49. You think by enforcing the Location Acts there, you would get a supply from there?—They are in force there. These districts would afford the best field to commence in.

50. You mentioned Ndabeni Location and New Brighton Location. Do not you find a large number of squatters in these locations?—No. I do not see that there is any opportunity for squatting because these locations do not provide any arable land at all, and a native who is living in either of them has to pay rent to Government, and he has to provide his own food, so that he must be earning money somewhere to meet the rent required and the cost of his living.

51. There is a feeling that these squatters go there for stealing and drinking—that they not only go out and steal stock, but they make beer?—I do not think that can apply to New Brighton and Ndabeni Locations. I do not think that is correct as regards those two locations. They are not much in the neighbourhood of farms at all.

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52. The farms in the North Western Districts are long distances apart, and the natives like to meet each other. Do you think that has anything to do with their not going to the North Western Districts?—I do not think that would deter them if the conditions of service were acceptable.

53. Do you find they prefer living with their families than going to the mines and seeing their families only once in six months?—No, I think they would prefer to have families in their tribal lands, and the men could go out to work, but there are natives who go to the farms with their families, but the greater number go out periodically to work in the great centres of labour, where they get higher wages.

54. In the event of obtaining families in this way do you think they would submit to being brought down by contract in the same way as the Natal people get coolies from India on a seven years' contract?—I am doubtful if you would succeed in getting the natives to enter into contracts of any long duration, especially to begin with, because they would be uncertain as to their treatment, and at first they would be shy.

55. It would be very unsatisfactory getting a family from a long distance, and only having them for a month, and then they give notice to leave?—I can see that, and I am aware of this that a good many years ago it was practicable to arrange with natives to enter service definitely for a year on payment in kind, but of late years they have got more into the way of monthly payment of wages, and they prefer that as protection against unfair treatment. My experience in general in the Eastern Province is that a good master and a good mistress can always get labour and are never without it.

56. *Mr. Barrable.*] The great thing is to obtain labour—can you suggest any way by which it could be made known amongst the Transkeian and other districts that labour would be required and the

conditions under which it would be employed? You mentioned the Magistrate and the Police Officers. Could some inducement be offered to Magistrates' Clerks as commission so as to allow them or people employed by them to induce natives to come to this part of the Colony?—I am satisfied that the best course is to work through the Officers of the Government who are on the spot, and who hold regular meetings with the headmen and people of their districts. That is the surest way of letting the people know the terms and conditions that may be offered in the North-Western districts.

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57. You would want somebody who would get that information independently of his ordinary office work—somebody who would go about and let the people know what the inducements are?—That would only be another Government Officer, and why employ a fifth Government Officer where you have four already in a certain field. If you want an extraneous agency, it would be better for farmers to appoint such an agency. There are labour agents now, and you could acquaint them with your requirements, and see what they could do. The way in which the old Dutch farmers used to get their servants when I was in charge of the Tambookies was by sending an old servant through Kafirland (as it was then called), and he would tell the natives that his master wanted some servants, and would give him a good name, and would go back with a family or two according to his requirements.

58. They were close to the labour supply, but here it is a long distance off, and you must induce them to come that distance for a consideration, and I thought if a commission were allowed to Government servants which would induce them to try to persuade the natives to come, it would make them interest themselves in getting the supply required, and sending the natives to the people requiring them?—I do not think it is a good principle to offer a commission to men for doing

Col. W. E. M. their duty, and I am satisfied that Government
Standford, Officers would do their duty if required by
C.B., C.M.G. Government in the same way as they will for the
July 15, 1907. mines. The real difficulty is to get the native to
go with his family and serve a master whom he
has never seen or heard of personally.

59. That could only be done by a labour agent on the spot?—The agent is there now in your officer of the Government, and if you want an agency outside, you have the machinery of the labour agents who are licensed under the Labour Agents' Acts. In my opinion the native would be far more ready to accept the assurance of a Magistrate or Inspector he has known for many years than to accept the assurance of a labour agent because the native is very quick to see whether a man is working for a commission or not.

60. In all large towns in the Eastern Province and Border districts there are native locations attached to the towns over which Government have no control?—Yes, Government has no control over locations within the Municipal boundaries.

61. With regard to those Mr. Hurndall spoke of as being a source of trouble to the farmers round about?—I think he confused private locations on farms with the Government Labour Location at Ndabeni and New Brighton. There have been complaints with respect to locations on private property.

62. In Queenstown, under Municipal control, there are some of these locations in which there are a number of natives not employed?—Yes, I think the question of the accommodation of natives and the control of natives within the Municipal limits is of very great importance, because more and more owing to pressure in locations the natives are drifting to towns, and (unless it is seen to) that the conditions under which they live in these locations near the towns are such as to maintain amongst the people themselves a certain degree of

self respect, we are going to see bye and by a vagabond class of native in the neighbourhood of towns who will become a serious trouble. I think a very great responsibility rests on Municipal authorities in respect of this matter.

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63. In these native locations there is sufficient labour lying idle to supply enough labour for the country outside?—I cannot say from personal knowledge. These Municipal locations have not been under my control as head of the Native Affairs Department, and I cannot say there is such a supply there.

64. *Mr. De Villiers.*] Can you inform the Committee for what period these natives are generally engaged to work at Johannesburg or other centres of labour?—Between four and six months.

65. Would they consider it unreasonable if the farmers in the Midland Districts or the North-Western Districts were to ask them to engage for a couple of years? I remember in the time of Sir George Grey, the Government brought in natives for three years. In all that time they were free to do as they pleased. The Contracts were written, and gave general satisfaction. Could not the same course be adopted in the present case, and where the natives would not be willing to undertake to serve for three years or where the native has cause to complain and the Contract is not complied with the native has his remedy?—I think you might endeavour to begin with a contract of one year's duration. The instance to which you refer during the time of Sir George Grey was the great starvation of 1857, when thousands of natives entered the Colony after killing their cattle and destroying their corn. They were destitute and starving and Sir George Grey to save them sent them amongst the farmers under the conditions you have stated, but these circumstances do not exist at the present time. Now the native has his choice of employment—he is wanted at the ports, the mines and

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railway works, and he naturally goes where he sees it is most to his advantage to place his labour.

66. What period of service would most fall in with their views?—I think a fair term of service on farms under the conditions we have been sketching would be a year, then if the native was contented, he would probably stay on.

67. We feel there must be some time fixed. We cannot presume that a farmer would undertake to bring natives to his place unless there would be some prospect of a fairly lengthy period for him to serve, as he would have to pay the expenses of the natives of travelling to his farm, and there should be some guarantee. You think a year would satisfy him, and the contract could be renewed if both parties were satisfied with each other?—Yes.

Mr. Joseph Ricards Quinn, examined.

Mr.
J. R. Quinn.

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68. *Chairman.*] You are living in the Ndabeni Location?—Yes, I am the Assistant Magistrate.

69. Do you know the object of this Committee?—Yes, I saw a report of it in the *Cape Times*.

70. Can you make any recommendations?—I have only had experience in the Native districts of the Cape Colony, such as Glen Grey, King William's Town, Victoria East, Queenstown and other places.

71. When you were there, were there any native labourers engaged in the Western Province from those districts?—No, but I know of many cases where natives were employed on the farms in the Eastern Province. Native families would go and get engaged for 6 and 12 months and longer periods, and I have known native families to stay years and years. I have also found that natives prefer payment in kind, that is by stock.

72. Do you think they still prefer this?—Yes, I think the native still prefers it. The uncivilised natives prefer to work for farmers, and the richer men in the locations are those who have put in their time working for farmers.

73. Was the agreement made by the farmers or who?—By the farmer. The natives have gone over to the farmer, in fact you find natives from the Glen Grey district working in Cradock.

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74. But not into the Western or North-Western Province?—That presents a difficulty. My idea was that if the Magistrates at Ndabeni, Beaufort West and other places in the Western district were informed of what labour was wanted, they might be in a position to send a few families who would be willing to go to work, but to secure labourers from the Eastern Province on those lines would present difficulties.

75. Yes, but you can get natives down by train; there is a special tariff, and the families are included in this tariff?—Then you could get them under the special tariff.

76. But the labourer has to show a special certificate that he is actually employed?—Yes. If any agreement were to be made at all, I should suggest that it be made at the office of the Magistrate of the district or the Chief Constable.

77. *Mr. de Villiers.*] For what period would the natives be likely to come from the Midland Districts, there must be some limit?—Six months.

78. Not for a year?—Natives are averse to enter into contracts to work a long way from home for lengthened periods, they like to feel that they can return in a reasonable time.

79. I suppose that their families would accompany them?—Yes, that would make a difference.

80. They would undertake a year?—It is quite different. If they have their families there, they will remain for a long time and then return to the locations, but they would be content to remain for a longer time.

81. Can you give the Committee any information as to the wages of a man and his family and children?—Well, I should say the native would work for six months for a heifer and be quite satisfied, and his wife would be well paid if she

Mr. J. R. Quinn. received say 10s. a month, and there are the small boys, who might be paid from 3s. to 5s. a month as herds.
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82. Of course we will have to consider the fact that the farmer will be put to some expense before he has them on his farm, he will have to bear part of the expense of the conveyance by train?—Yes. That would be a strong inducement, but in order to secure labour, assistance should, I think, be given.

83. But some reduction would have to be made for at least the first year?—Of course, the native thinks that having come so far he is entitled to more, if not to the same amount he received from a farmer in the Eastern Province. It is more convenient for him to work there for he can get home easier, he can drive his stock and walk home.

84. *Mr. Hurndall.*] Have you any experience of Municipal Locations?—I have not any great knowledge, I have lived in East London as Assistant Magistrate, and saw the working of the locations.

85. Were you satisfied?—I think so.

86. Were there no complaints?—The natives complained, but not the others.

87. There is a tendency on the part of natives to drift into the towns?—Yes, and it would be an excellent thing if we could encourage them to come on to the farms for the purpose of serving the farmers. Applications might be made to the Magistrates of Ndabeni and Beaufort West and other places to get these families away on the farms.

88. Can you suggest any means whereby these people could be got out of these locations?—I do not think there is any way. Act 40 of 1902 would be the only thing which could do it.

89. Do you think it would be an advantage to put them under the control of the Mounted Police instead of the Municipal Police?—Yes.

90. Do you think you could get natives from the Transkei?—No.

91. Why not?—He does not like to go so far from home. Mr.
J. R. Quinn.

92. Do you know the Victoria East and Peddie Districts?—Yes, I know the Victoria East District very well. July 15, 1907.

93. *Mr. Rogers.*] The object of the Committee is to ascertain whether there is a good supply of a bour available. Can you give any information on that point?—I think there is a good supply available.

94. And you think these locations and portions of the Transkeian Territories are congested in spots, and would be all the better if eased?—Yes, but I cannot speak with any experience as to the Transkei. In Glen Grey there is a population of from 50,000 to 60,000 natives, and there is not sufficient land in the district to meet their requirements. A larger number might reasonably go out to work than actually do.

95. Can you suggest any scheme by which these locations can be tapped to get this labour?—You mean farm labour?

96. Yes, shepherds, etc?—I think the only way out of the difficulty is for the Magistrates of those districts to be notified that the labourers are wanted in the different localities.

97. And supposing there is no desire on the part of these people to move out, would you advise coercion?—No.

98. What would be the result?—First of all you would have a dissatisfied servant.

99. Do you think the native locations at Victoria East are over-crowded?—Well, it is some time since I was in that district, but I think they are over-crowded.

100. I fancy that a great change is coming over the native races as to the dignity of labour?—Yes.

101. *Mr. Wilmot.*] Do you think there is a redundant population that can be induced to come to the Western Province and give their labour?—Provided they are not wanted by the Mines.

Mr. J. R. Quinn. 102. Is there any idle class which can be coerced ?
—No.

July 15, 1907. 103. What do you suggest ?—Well my suggestion is that the natives who are actually in the Western Province now, or native families, should be tried, and if they were satisfied they would spread the news, and it would rest with that whether the plan of getting this labour would be a success or not.

104. *Mr. de Villiers.*] Do the natives go to the mines from Glen Grey ?—A small number did go to the mines in 1905, a greater number might have gone, but they did not, a large number of these men came to Cape Town with the object of being engaged in German South West Africa. That is one reason why the recruiting for the mines has been limited.

105. Do large numbers still go ?—Yes, large numbers have gone and they have received very high wages.

106. *Chairman.*] They are still going ?—Yes, but they are engaged in Railway construction. These men receive 3s. 6d. a day, free quarters and free transport to and from.

107. Are you acquainted with Beaufort West ?—No.

107A. You have no further suggestions to make to the Committee ?—No. I have no further suggestions.

108. *Mr. De Villiers.*] With regard to German South West Africa, have these circumstances ceased or is the labour still required ?—No, the German Agent is still collecting labour.

109. *Mr. Barrable.*] It is a matter of wages ?—That is the inducement.

110. If a farmer offers them a piece of land and allows them to live as they like, they will stay for a longer period than six months ?—If natives were offered a piece of ground to cultivate, on the halves they would stay longer.

111. A native of that kind would stay on for one, two or three years ?—Yes.

Wednesday, 17th July, 1907.

PRESENT :

Mr. CLAASSENS (Chairman).

Mr. Wilmot.		Mr. Rogers.
Mr. Hurndall.		Mr. Barrable.
Mr. J. N. P. de Villiers		Mr. Michau.

Mr. George Egerton Dugmore. M.L.A., examined.

112. *Chairman.*] You are a member of the House of Assembly?—Yes.

Mr.
G. E. Dug-
more, M.L.A.
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113. Where do you live?—At the Indwe coal mines.

114. Are you farming there?—No. I am Managing Director of the Indwe Company.

115. Are you acquainted with the native labourers there?—Yes, we have a large number of labourers there—both Kaffirs and Europeans.

116. Do you think the native labourers would be willing to go long distances by rail to work?—I know thousands of labourers do take the train at Indwe for Johannesburg, Kimberley and Cape Town.

117. Do you know the wages paid natives by farmers at Indwe?—No, I do not know the rate paid by the farmers, but I think about £1 per month.

118. And all found?—Yes.

119. *Mr. Wilmot.*] Of course you have had a great deal of experience and know the object of this Committee. Have you any suggestions to make to enable farmers throughout the country and especially in the Western districts to get labourers either from the territories or from the Colony?—I think if farmers were to offer native families from the Eastern Province decent wages to come down here, and especially allow them to have a piece of land to cultivate or to graze stock on, they would have less difficulty in getting them to come.

Mr. 120. You think you might get them down in
G. E. Dug- groups under those conditions?—Yes.
more, M.L.A.

— 121. Using as an agency the Government officials?
July 17, 1907. —Yes.

122. You do not think any poll tax or any method of legislation would help?—I do not think so. I do not believe in a poll-tax at all and it might lead to trouble.

123. You do not see that by legislation anything could be done?—No, I do not.

124. What wages do you think they would accept?—Of course wages have gone up very much on the whole of late.

125. What do you pay at your mines?—Our standard wage is 2s. 6d. a day for an able-bodied man.

126. He finds himself?—Yes.

127. You get labour easily at that rate?—Yes.

128. Then of course they have the advantage of living in houses near the mines?—We have several ways. We have an open compound and they can live there and they can buy what they require in regard to food supply from the Company or any store in town at practically cost price. They pay no rent for their rooms. Then those who wish to be there with their wives can build their own huts and we supply the timber and iron for the roof and they supply the sods. We make a small charge for rent in order to keep control over the buildings.

129. You get men easily on those terms?—Yes, generally we have sufficient labour.

130. Do you think £1 a month for able-bodied men and some reasonable wage for women and children would induce them to come to the Western Province?—Yes, they would accept a fair wage. Our wage to women is 1s. a day and they find themselves. We employ about 200 of them.

131. The ground they are given by you would be just sufficient, I suppose, to enable them to

grow vegetables on?—Yes, they grow pumpkins and kaffir corn for their own use.

132. *Mr. Rogers.*] What number of men do you employ on your mine?—From 800 to 900. On an average 500 to 600 are actually working daily.

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133. From what source do you get that supply of labour?—They come in voluntarily. As a rule, we do not have to send out to get labour. They come from various parts of the Transkei—Engcobo, St. Mark's and the Glen Grey area. We are right on the borders of the Territories.

134. You have a number of farms, have you not, in connection with the Company?—Yes.

135. What do you do with these farms?—There are five of them in the immediate vicinity of the mines. We settle natives upon them. We have a contract which is a contract of service and also a contract of lease in one. We give them two to three morgen of arable land and grazing for a limited number of stock. For the arable land we charge £3 a year rent, and for grazing 3s. per head per annum for horned cattle and horses and 3d. per sheep per head per annum. They have to enter into a contract for 12 months that they will work for us when called upon.

136. Then practically these farms give you your labour supply?—No. We have from about 120 to 200 settled on the farms.

137. You have travelled about a good bit about that part of the country—through the native locations?—I have not travelled much in the Transkei.

138. From the information you have had, do you think there are many congested native locations in that part?—I cannot speak from my own knowledge at all, but I believe there are parts thickly populated now.

139. I suppose these native young men who move about in search of work are unmarried men?—I should think largely they are unmarried, though from their appearance one would say they

Mr.
G. E. Dug-
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are men of 30 or 40 years of age who would be probably married men.

140. Would it not be possible to induce some of these middle-aged men with wives and families to come into the Colony?—Yes, that is the class. They are getting very crowded in Kafirland, and I think, especially on farms where they could have grazing for a little stock and a small piece of land to cultivate, families could be induced to come and settle, and probably would stay for a good many years.

141. Have you any plan you could suggest to the Committee as to the best means of getting these men to come from the congested locations in the Colony?—I believe it is the intention of the Government to start some kind of labour bureau, that is to do away with the present system of engaging labour through native labour agents. We have twelve of them at Indwe, all touting for labour for Johannesburg, Kimberley and other places. I understood some time ago that it was the intention of the Government to establish a labour bureau and that the control of all recruiting would be undertaken by them. If that were done, farmers would, of course, make application to Government, and, through the agency of this bureau, they would get the men they wanted.

142. Do you find any difference at all in the value of the labour obtained for, say, the Fingoes or the Tembus? Which do you prefer as labourers?—Ours are all practically Tembus, though we may have a few Fingoes and Basutos.

143. You have no knowledge of Fingo labour?—No, very little. We have a settlement of them, but, as a fact, they are more or less educated, and go to Johannesburg, where they get situations in stores, and as a rule they can command very good wages.

144. *Mr. Hurdall,*] You draw your supplies principally from the Transkei?—Yes.

145. Do you find any difficulty in obtaining

labourers?—Not as a rule, but generally about January we are short, and very often in June.

146. How do you account for that?—It may have something to do with the planting and reaping seasons. Last January we were short, but not in June.

147. You think families could be induced to come to the Western districts on condition that they have a little land to cultivate?—Yes, and land for stock to graze.

148. The farmers want all the land they have for their own stock—you do not think they would come for wages alone?—It is doubtful. I was discussing the matter with a friend the other day who wanted labour, and I told him if he came to Indwe I could put him in communication with families who might come if he gave them land for grazing, but he said he wanted all the land he had for grazing his own cattle.

149. Those are the only means you can suggest of obtaining families?—Well, if you do not do that, you are compelled to pay higher wages, and if you can pay wages which can compete with the mines, I think they would come because they prefer farm labour.

150. Those farms you spoke of at Indwe belonging to your Company, are they treated as private locations?—We have special arrangements with Government in consideration of its being a mining area, and the difficulty we had in obtaining labour at first. Each native is a private servant, as under his contract he has to work for practically twelve months, though they only work six months in the year.

151. There is no supervision over those farms?—There is no Government supervision, but we have a white inspector, who is a competent man and headmen.

152. Have you any experience of Municipal locations?—Very little.

153. You are not aware that large bodies of able-

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bodied men go into locations and squat there?—I think that is the case at Indwe. There are a good many able-bodied men there who do not do any work.

154. Do you think legislation should be introduced dealing with Municipal locations?—I think it would be a good thing if no one were allowed there unless he had employment of some kind. I do not think loafers and squatters should be allowed there.

155. *Mr. Barrable.*] At one time there were a large number of natives going from Indwe to various parts of the Colony?—Yes.

156. That supply has diminished now?—I do not think so. I know only some three or four months ago the numbers seemed to be larger.

157. Where were they going to?—To Johannesburg and Kimberley.

158. You say the great inducement for natives coming to this part of the Colony would be to give them a piece of ground to cultivate and also some grazing rights for stock?—Yes.

159. Has that not diminished altogether since the Railways have come?—I do not know whether such is the case down this way, but the farmers up our way are still stock farmers, and the natives like to have a few cattle and sheep. When his stock accumulates and he has say 30 sheep and half a dozen head of cattle, the farmers may say, "I cannot keep you any longer," or the native himself may say, "I will go back: I have enough to live on."

160. How would that apply to this part of the country where it would take them a month to get back to their homes?—There are many things here which militate against it. There seems to be very poor grazing for stock here, and I do not know whether mealies and Kafir corn grow well here. I think the only thing is to pay higher wages to make it worth their while, so that they would be able to save some of their wages to take back with them.

161. So that would be the only thing, as there is the difficulty of providing any land for the purpose you suggest here?—Yes.

162. The impossibility of giving land here where it is all employed by the proprietor means that they will have to take wages and go without stock?—Yes, provided the wages were adequate. I doubt if you would be able to get men from there at less than 2s. a day.

163. And women and children?—Women from 1s. to 1s. 6d. a day, and children from 6d. to 9d. a day, according to what they are worth.

164. They would not come for a monthly wage?—They might. It all depends whether the wage was sufficient to tempt them to come.

165. You do not know of any parts in the Colony other than the Transkei from where labour could be supplied?—No.

166. If regulations were made by which locations were compelled to exclude anyone not employed by the towns' people, would that not give a large surplus of labour?—I think it would, and would be a very good thing in many ways. It would clear the locations of idle natives who are perhaps engaged in illicit liquor selling or living on others.

167. *Mr. Michau.*] In your experience are these natives anxious to search for work?—I know they are getting very crowded in their locations, and finding it rather hard to live. In some cases the locations are getting overcrowded with stock. What the natives are most anxious to do there is to get ground upon which they can settle. I am pestered every day by my people wanting ground to settle on. They will hire ground, and pay a very high rent for it.

168. But they will not serve as servants?—No.

169. In your opinion what is the main reason why the natives do not go out in search of work?—I do not think any of us care to go out for work for the sake of work.

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170. But we are forced to work to keep our respectability?—Yes, but the same thing does not affect them.

171. Their requirements are very small?—Yes, and it is only their wants which cause them to go out in search of work.

172. Are there no means by which we can compel them to work?—I think the only way is that as they become more civilized and their wants increase they will have to earn money in order to satisfy those wants. I am told that one effect of their going out in large numbers is that when they return home they have lost the taste for their own natural food. Any men coming back are not satisfied with that, and want coffee, sugar, rice and clothing more or less, and the effect of this is that there is quite a change taking place in their mode of living.

173. The question has been put with regard to having a poll-tax. You are not in favour of that?—No, I am strongly opposed to it.

174. Are you aware that it works well in the Orange River Colony?—No, but I know it worked very badly in Natal where the natives rebelled owing to it, and I think possibly it would create trouble here. I think it is an unfair tax, as it presses on the poor man, and is absolutely unfelt by the wealthy man. I do not therefore regard it as an equitable tax.

175. *Mr. De Villiers.*] You have told us that some of these natives come and settle on the farms your Company own in the neighbourhood of Indwe. Can you tell the Committee for what term they generally agree to remain there?—Well they pay £3 rent a year for 2 to 3 morgen of arable land, and they pay 3s. per head for grazing large stock per annum, and 3d. per head per annum for sheep; then there is a contract which they enter into which is practically a twelve months' engagement. After the twelve months they may either go or remain, and I have had some who have

remained for fifteen years. If they choose to remain we do not go through the formality of having a fresh contract.

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176. Would that be the period for which generally speaking they would be willing to engage themselves elsewhere, say in the Midland or Western districts of the Colony?—I think they would be willing to go on a twelve months' engagement, especially a man with his family.

177. With regard to the employment of these people you agree that there are a good many natives who might work, but do not do so at present?—I think it is so, but on the other hand there are a great many who go out to work. I think at Indwe, 3,000 go out to work every month.

178. Do you think the Transkeian natives are about the most suitable for agricultural purposes?—Yes, the Transkeian natives are very good for that, as they are accustomed both to stock farming and agriculture. Their agriculture consists of growing mealies, kafir corn, pumpkins and wheat.

179. With regard to the fact that so many natives are unemployed do you think the Municipal laws might be amended to meet that difficulty?—Yes.

180. You think that it is mostly owing to indifference of the Municipality that these men are allowed to remain unemployed?—Yes I think the Municipalities might with advantage exercise a stricter supervision over the locations, and only allow people to live there who have some legitimate employment.

181. That would probably lead to a great increase in the number of agricultural labourers for this part of the country?—Yes it might prevent them living there.

182. *Mr. Michau.*] Have you much trouble with stock thefts in your part of the country?—I do not know from my own knowledge, but from enquiries I made recently I find there is very little.

183. Have you noticed that natives are more

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inclined to go in for piece-work than to take an engagement for six months. I refer to those who go in search of work?—With us, those who come in and go away stay for about two or three months.

184. Of course you only have piece-work?—Yes. we pay a day wage.

185. In our part they only go in for piece-work, and will not do anything else?—We engage for a month, and they are at liberty to go after that if they like.

186. *Mr. Barrable.*] You spoke of natives on farms at Indwe. Are there not natives there very wealthy?—Yes; there are.

187. And their farms are stocked with cattle?—Yes; there is one native who hires three farms from the Company, and owns a farm with three thousand sheep and a hundred head of cattle, and is a wealthy man.

188. In Tembuland and that portion of Glen Grey which is more or less under Government control there are a lot of natives who own farms which are well stocked?—Yes; there are a certain number who got farms from the Tembuland Commission in Indwe and Cala, and many of them have their farms still; and in Glen Grey Location the headmen and chief men got grants of 15 morgen of arable land and corresponding grazing rights, and they have nice houses well furnished and live like Europeans.

189. *Mr. Rogers.*] I think the Committee would like to hear a little more about the conditions on which you let ground to tenants. When they take this land have you a claim upon them as servants?—Yes; that is the only object. We do not allow them to go there unless they promise to work for us.

190. That forms a nucleus for your labour supply?—It forms the nucleus of certain labour we can call for. Our headmen are there all the time, and if they will not turn out to work we say “we will cancel your contract, and you will have to go.”

191. *Chairman.*] Do you think the women would take stock for payment as well as the men?—I think they would. The Kafirs are very fond of stock. Of course the agreement would be made with the men. You give the man so much, and the wife so much.

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Mr. Arthur Gladwin, examined.

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192. *Chairman.*] Are you the Magistrate of Tsolo?—Yes.

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193. Do you know the object of this Committee?—From what appears on the Summons, it is to obtain labour.

194. Are there many locations where you live?—Yes.

195. And do you think the natives in those locations will go out to work in the Western Province?—No, they are not willing, they go to Kimberley and the mines.

196. Do you think that if they can have their families with them they will go?—No, except the worst class of men.

197. The middle class, do you think they will go?—They are not anxious to, a few go to Barkly and Maclear, which are neighbouring districts.

198. *Mr. De Villiers.*] What district did you say you were Magistrate of?—Tsolo.

199. That is in the Native Territories?—Yes.

200. The men about there, are there any of them suitable for agricultural purposes?—They are suitable if you can get them to go out. They are agriculturalists and pastoralists themselves.

201. And those who do engage themselves, what are the terms they get?—When a native has been out to work he generally brings back with him small stock.

202. Do you know instances where the whole family would go out to work on a farm?—I have seen natives, but I do not know of any who are willing to go out.

203. Do you not think there is some necessity for natives to seek work?—Yes.

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204. What would be the terms, supposing they did go out to the country, say, the Midland and Western Districts?—It is generally to liquidate debts that they go out, therefore they would prefer to be paid in stock.

205. What would they be satisfied with in stock?—I have no idea.

206. *Mr. Michau.*] The requirements of natives are small?—Yes.

207. What taxes do they pay?—Hut tax and General Rate.

208. They are not anxious to go to work?—No, but they go to the mines and the docks.

209. Can you recommend anything to the Committee which would be an inducement to them to come out to work, without offering them a good wage?—Of course a man would want his own and, arable for choice; that could be one of the conditions.

210. Would you be in favour of a poll-tax?—How do you mean to levy it?

211. I mean something which would compel them to come out to work?—What was called a Labour tax was tried some time ago, but it was very unpopular, and was eventually abandoned.

212. Of course natives prefer to live in large numbers together and object to isolation?—Yes, they like to have their friends around them.

213. But if Government offers them free railway carriage to bring them and their families, would that be an inducement?—There might be cases, but there would be no rush.

214. You have no further recommendations?—No.

215. *Mr. Hurndall.*] The object of the Committee is to obtain labour for the farmers, and you said that only the worst class of native would be willing to go out to work?—I mean the man who has no property, or the man who has got into trouble with his friends through suspected witchcraft, or the man in debt.

216. You think these men might be induced to come out?—Yes.

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217. Would there be many of them?—No.

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218. Have you found a tendency among natives to drift into the towns?—Yes.

219. Have you any knowledge of Municipal Locations?—No.

220. *Mr. Rogers.*] You have lived a long time in the Transkeian Territories?—Yes. I have had 19 years' service in the Territories.

221. You know of a large number of locations?

Yes, and many are often congested.

222. How do these people live?—In my district there is a periodical revision of land, a man who holds a certain amount of land, more than he requires, is made to give up some of it to the younger men.

223. Still, that does not carry away the population?—It alleviates the pressure for a time.

224. Most of the men go to the mines or docks you say; these would be the young men?—Yes.

225. Now, are there not a lot of middle-aged men with families who would go out to work, men who would do shepherding, etc.?—Yes. But they would be of the lower classes of such men.

226. It is possible to get such men in the Transkei?—Isolated cases, not in numbers.

227. How would you announce this?—I should have it announced through the Magistrates.

228. Is the population increasing?—Yes.

229. Are there more living there now than there were ten years ago?—Yes.

230. How do they live?—They live on their lands. In the event of one of them failing he borrows and then goes out to work.

231. Then you think there is still land to support them?—At the present time.

232. Then they cannot be so congested?—I mean that the same amount of land is not held by any individual as formerly. One man will hold a certain amount of land, more than he actually

Mr. A. Gladwin. requires and when the headman calls them together he says that a certain amount must be given up.
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233. If you could get men to go out to work what rate of wages would they require, how much a month?—I think myself the natives would like the same wages they got at the gold fields.

234. Of course he would not get that, it would be prohibitive to the farmers?—Yes, then it would mean that he would go to the better market.

235. Then you think native labour from the Transkei in any quantity is not available?—It is not a popular form of labour.

236. *Mr. Wilmot.*] Have you any suggestion to make which would enable the farmers in the Western and Midland Provinces to get labourers from the Coloured Territories and the East?—The wants of the farmers should be circularised through the Magistrates, and then the result could be reported to the Native Affairs Department.

237. Then the farmers would see on what terms the natives could be got?—Yes.

Monday, 22nd July, 1907.

PRESENT :

Mr. CLAASSENS (Chairman).

Mr. Wilmot.

Mr. Hurndall.

Mr. Barrable.

Mr. Frank William Powrie, M.L.A., examined.

Mr. F. W. Powrie,
M.L.A.

July 22, 1907. 238. *Chairman.*] You are a Member of the House of Assembly?—Yes.

239. Do you know the object of this Committee?—Hardly. I have seen it is a Committee on Farm Labour Supply, but do not exactly know what its objects are.

240. It is to ascertain whether labourers are

available for farm labourers. Are you a farmer?
—Yes.

Mr.
F. W. Powrie,
M.L.A.

241. In which part of the Colony?—Barkly East.

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242. Have you any difficulty in finding native labourers?—None whatever.

243. Are you of opinion that farm labourers can be obtained for any other part of the Colony?—Not in our district. All our labour comes from outside.

244. Where do they come from?—Well we are peculiarly situated—on the north and north-east we are bounded by the native reserve of Herschel and of Basutoland proper, on the east by East Griqualand, Mount Fletcher and Maclear, in which there are large native locations, and then we are not very far from the district of Glen Grey in which there is a huge population of natives.

245. Do you send there when you want labourers or do they come to you?—They come to us.

246. Are they kafirs?—They are Basutos. Tembus and Fingoes.

247. Do you think they would be willing to go from there by train with their families to the north-western and midland districts of the Colony?—When they take upon themselves to leave their locations for very far outside employment they would naturally go to the mines either at Kimberley or Johannesburg. The number of natives required for farm service would be absorbed nearer home than the north-western districts.

248. Do they come to your farm with their families?—Yes, and young men without wives.

249. What wages do you pay?—We usually engage them for six months and either pay them in sheep at the rate of one sheep per month or in cattle; it depends on the class of cow or heifer as to the length of period. If we hire for cash as farm servants we pay 15s. to 20s. and sometimes 12s. per month.

250. All found?—Yes, we feed them, and of

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course they have the advantage if they have stock of running them on the farm owner's property.

251. *Mr. Wilmot.*] You have of course had a good deal of experience. Can you give the Committee any suggestions with reference to enabling the people in the midland and north-eastern districts to get labour for their farms from the territories or the extreme eastern districts?—I think it is a very difficult question to put to me. As I have just remarked in reply to the Chairman all the available farm labour can be absorbed in the neighbourhood of the native districts, and unless the midland and north-western farmers could offer considerably greater inducements in the shape of wages and so on, I question whether the natives would go so far afield.

252. I suppose a piece of ground and the rights of pasture would be considered equivalent to wages?—They get that there in addition.

253. And £1 a month wages for men and a proportionate amount for the women?—Well, they practically get that up there. We have been paying them a sheep per month when sheep have been up to 25s. They are willing to take that whether the price is 5s. or 30s.

254. But wages have gone up very much?—Yes, unquestionably.

255. I suppose sending the Chinese home will have an effect on the labour market?—Absolutely.

256. You do not see any way by which the natives could be induced to come to the north-western districts except by offering them higher terms?—No, I do not.

257. You do not think some system of appointing Government officials to engage labour would assist?—I do not think so. One must always bear in mind that the native is not a labourer in the same way as the navy is, he is a peasant farmer, and as long as he remains in a location and under the Glen Grey Act has four morgen of land and manages to derive a livelihood from it, it is

questionable whether he will go in for the strenuous life.

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258. *Chairman.*] As a rule we always pay labourers at the rate of a sheep a month and women half that?—Yes, we do the same. We give the women three sheep in six months.

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259. *Mr. Hurdall.*] You say in the parts of the country you are acquainted with there is no difficulty in obtaining labour?—None. I may say at time of shearing or reaping we find to-day a greater difficulty in obtaining labour than we did in the past. They do not offer their services so freely to-day as they did five or six years ago, and you have sometimes a little difficulty in getting sufficient hands at those times, and you must pay a little higher for them.

260. How do you account for that?—There is a greater drain on them to-day than there was ten or fifteen years ago.

261. You think greater inducements will have to be offered to get them to come to the midland and north-eastern districts?—Yes. You will find that they will go to the ports where they will do actual manual labour, but for farm labour they can all be absorbed in the neighbouring districts. We are peculiarly situated as we are almost entirely surrounded by native reservations, and therefore we get the first pull.

262. Have you any knowledge of municipal locations?—No. We have a municipal location in the municipality of which I am mayor, and of course it is controlled under local regulations to a certain extent.

263. Do you find there is a tendency for natives to get into these locations and drift into towns?—Yes, there is a tendency for natives to come and squat in these locations and simply live there, and do a stray job now and then, and make a living in a precarious manner. I may say we have put a stop to that kind of thing. We have very strict supervision, and any man not in permanent employ-

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ment is hustled along. I found when I took office that there was a tendency that way, and at the present moment we have very stringent location regulations going through the usual channel.

264. *Mr. Barrable.*] Have you had any experience in the employment of natives to go out of your own district?—No, I have not been a native labour agent. I have no knowledge of it.

265. Could you recommend any means by which labour could be obtained to come down to the western districts?—I take it you are speaking of farm labour. I can only give the same reply I gave to Mr. Wilmot, that the neighbouring districts of which I have knowledge can absorb any labour offering as farm labour, and the only thing I can think of is to offer them better inducements, whether that would have any effect I do not know. It is further afield, and would cost more to get there. It is absolutely my opinion that the Colony is going to suffer more now that the Chinamen are being sent away.

266. Our object is to get the labour down here?—Yes. You have at the present moment 80,000 to 90,000 natives at Johannesburg mines, and you had 50,000 Chinamen, which means you had roughly 150,000 miners permanent men. If you are going to take away the 50,000 permanent Chinamen you must bear in mind that the great bulk of natives only work for six months in the year, and, therefore, if the mines are to be run by native labour you will require 300,000 men per annum.

267. There is, therefore, very little chance of labour coming down this way from the natives up-country?—I look upon it not from a personal point of view, because I think our district being so situated will always be able to obtain a fair amount of labour. We do feel the pinch at times, and we are near their homes, but we will feel it more in the future.

268. From your experience in connection with native locations, what would you recommend in order to have them more under control, and to keep them from being a harbour for all sorts of riff-raff?—I have no experience of any municipality outside my own. I know what I have done there. We have a superintendent of the location, and we have a native inspector living in the location, and a European inspector who goes there every day and goes through it. We have a system by which every man coming into the location has to report himself to the superintendent within eighteen hours. He is then given a permit to remain there for seven days pending search for employment. If at the end of seven days he has not obtained employment and has made no effort to do so he is given notice to quit.

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269. That is pretty well what applies to every location throughout the country. What is the population of your location?—About 700 or 800.

270. Some locations have 5,000 or 6,000 natives in them?—Yes. I am speaking of the municipal location of which I have any knowledge. I suppose the larger ones would be as easy to control with an adequate staff even if they have populations of 5,000 or 6,000.

271. You cannot recommend how these locations could be brought more under the control of Government?—Well, your municipal locations must, I take it, be under the control of the municipality.

272. You would not recommend that they should be taken out of municipal control and brought under the supervision of the Government?—No. the municipality is the man on the spot and you would be coming in constant conflict with the Government officials in the town if what you suggest is adopted. The locations are within municipal limits and the onus is thrown on the municipalities to govern them, whereas if you had dual control I have never seen any good come from it.

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273. Do the police supervising these locations come under the control of the municipality, or do Government supply the police?—We make arrangements whereby we pay some municipal police who are under the control of the Chief Constable, and of course we have the Cape Police to help us when necessary. We get them to make surprise visits, and have a sweep up occasionally.

274. Government have a certain control over locations in conjunction with the municipalities?—Of course they have control under law, but the onus and upkeep is thrown on the municipality. Of course we have to submit to regulations and instructions of the Medical Officer of Health, and so on.

275. *Mr. Hurndall.*] Do you think it would be any advantage to have the location supervised by the Cape Police instead of municipal police?—No. I do not see any advantage in that. That means their being placed under Government. I am not speaking of any knowledge of any location outside my own. It is the only location of which I have any knowledge.

276. *Chairman.*] With regard to shepherds, how do you feed them?—Our farms are not of the same extent as they are in the north-western districts, and we have a heavily grassed country where we can stock 2 to 2½ sheep per morgen, and in the generality of cases herds come down at night and take their food with them for the day in the morning. Where there are outposts on some mountain farms the herd is given his rations for the week.

Mr.
H. Collins,
M.L.A.
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Mr. Henry Collins. M.L.A., examined.

277. Are you a Member of the House of Assembly?—Yes.

278. Do you know the object of this Committee?—No.

279. It is to ascertain whether natives are available for farm labour. Where do you live?—Victoria East.

280. Are there many natives there?—Yes, about 16,000 males in Victoria East and Peddie.

Mr.
H. Collins.
M.L.A.

281. What is your occupation?—I am a farmer.

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282. In that case you should be able to give some very valuable information. Have you any difficulties in getting labour for your farm?—Yes, I have a great deal of difficulty in getting labour.

283. What is the reason for this, do you think?—Well, labour seems to have gone out of fashion among the natives, the old men are too old now to go out, and the young men will not. They get better wages on the mines than they do on the farms.

284. Can you make any recommendations to meet these difficulties?—Well, we find that the natives do not want money, they want and prefer stock, and we used to give them a beast for a year's work, but now they want more. The old natives preferred to work for stock, but the young men now prefer to go to the mines.

285. What do you think could be done, knowing the natives as you do?—I should be glad to get them to work for me, but I cannot.

286. It is not so much a question of wages which is the cause of the lack of labour, you think?—No, the young men do not like farm work.

287. When you get the men on your farm you feed them as well as paying them the beast for the year's work?—Yes.

288. What are the women paid?—Well, they are paid by the piece for scoffling, and the price depends on the condition of the ground, whether very weedy or otherwise. For reaping mealies I pay them 2d. a bag for mealie cobs.

289. If the question were put to them that they could come down by train and bring their families with them, do you think they would come?—Yes, if you can give them a place on the farm for their families you will get labour.

290. What is the best way of getting this labour, through the medium of the Police or through the Magistrates?—The Magistrate. As a rule they

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prefer to deal with the Magistrate rather than the Police, but the best men would be the Location Inspectors. They know their men thoroughly, and would be in the best position to get them.

291. *Mr. Hurndall.*] Some of these men could be induced to come round if they had their families?—Providing they could run a little stock. Of course the native wants to have his own kraal and stock.

292. Do you find the locations getting crowded?—Yes, the Government locations especially, so much so that they are now obliged to cut up their garden plots among themselves.

293. Do you find any recruiting going on for the mines?—Yes.

294. Is this as much as it ought to be?—No, there are a large number of young men loafing in the locations. When they do go out they prefer to go to the Docks at Cape Town and other ports.

295. There must be a lot of old men who could go out to work on farms?—There are some, and I know a number who apply for passes to go to Cradock and other places for the shearing season.

296. Do you know anything of Municipal Locations?—No.

297. Do you think there is a tendency on the part of the natives to go into the towns?—No, not always.

298. Are there not a lot of idlers in these locations?—Yes.

299. *Chairman.*] These men you speak of, when they return to the locations where do they get their food from?—From their own people on whom they live. They generally each bring back a few pounds, and this they use to buy stock to pay for wives.

300. Do you think that if we offered them stock in payment for their work and a place for their cattle to graze that they would come and work for us?—Yes.

Thursday 25th July, 1907.

PRESENT :

MR. CLAASSENS (Chairman.)

Mr. Wilmot.

| Mr. J. N. P. de Villiers.

The Reverend Simon Peter Sihlali. examined.

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301. *Chairman.*] Where do you live?—In the district of Engcobo, Tembuland.

302. Do you know the object of this Committee?—I received a telegram from the Clerk of the Legislative Council to the effect that I was required to give evidence before a Committee on Farm Labour Supply.

303. What is your occupation?—I am a Missionary of the Congregational Union of South Africa, at Solomon's Vale, Engcobo, Tembuland.

304. How long have you been engaged in that kind of work?—Twenty years in the Transkei and before that in the district of Graaff-Reinet.

305. What tribe of natives do you belong to?—I am a Fingo.

306. Are all the natives there Fingoes?—No, the majority are Tembus in the district of Engcobo. I have several other districts in my charge in Fingoland and there the majority are Fingoes.

307. You have been there all the time?—I have been there for 21 years.

308. You are, therefore, well acquainted with that district?—Yes.

309. Have you a permanent church there?—Yes.

310. I suppose you have a number of outside places in connection with your church?—Yes. I have several outstations in Xalanga, St. Marks, Ngamakwe, and where I live.

311. There is a large population of natives there?—Engcobo has more than 60,000, and is the most populous district in the Transkei.

312. Do you think there are any native labourers obtainable there for farmers in the Western Pro-

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vince?—I believe if favourable arrangements can be made you will get them. Of course as a general rule they go where they get most pay.

313. What would they prefer as pay, stock or money?—They generally prefer stock, and that is why there is no great difficulty in the Eastern Province and Midland Districts where they are paid in stock, of getting labour.

314. You think if we allowed natives to be accompanied by their families and brought them down by train that we would be able to obtain labourers for the Western Districts?—They object to leave with their families for this reason that a good many natives when they leave the Territories and come to the Midland Districts lose their ground. In the Territories they have to pay a hut tax of 10/- a year, and a rate to the Council of 10/- a year, and when they leave their names are taken off the list of those who pay rates, and the headman will allocate their ground to those who stay behind, and for this reason they are unwilling to leave the district. If, perhaps a change in that direction were made I think a good many would leave, because many of them are short of stock which they would like to have so as to beneficially occupy the land.

315. Do not you think if they went away for a period of two or three years a good many families would remain for good?—I am not sure whether they would remain on, but when I lived in Graaff-Reinet there were natives who had been there for more than 10 and 15 years. It all depends on the kind of masters they get.

316. Do many of your people go out to the mines?—There used to be, but of late thousands have returned because they could not get employment, and many in consequence went to Somerset West and a good many have gone to the German Protectorate for work.

317. Can you suggest anything which would lead to our getting labourers here?—I am inclined

to think if the magistrates were to receive instructions from Government to help natives to come here and give them advice, telling them in what districts they were required, just as at the present time arrangements have been made by the Transvaal Government for getting natives for the mines, it would help. One of the greatest difficulties was obtaining money for their travelling expenses, and they had to borrow it from traders at very high interest and the consequence was they were always in debt.

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318. The farmers would pay the train expenses for families. Do you think that would be better?—Yes. I think the natives should be approached through the magistrates.

319. Rather the magistrates than the police?—There are, of course, magistrates and magistrates. There are some who have great influence with the natives.

320. *Mr. Wilmot.*] What do you think of this scheme: that the Government form a farm labour bureau, and into that bureau money be paid by farmers so as out of future wages to pay the transport expenses of native labourers; that the farmers state their terms and that this bureau working through the magistrates endeavour to obtain people—men and women for the farmers?—I think it would be a very good plan because the natives would prefer that Government paid the money and that the money be deducted from their wages, of course Government being recouped by the farmers.

321. The advantages which should be offered natives to come I suppose you would say would be the payment of their expenses and the payment in stock for their services and if possible arrangements with regard to the grazing of their stock?—Yes.

322. And also that they can bring their wives with them and have a hut and a piece of ground to cultivate—you think they could be obtained on that basis?—Yes.

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323. In large numbers?—Yes.

324. In what districts?—Engcobo and Umtata.

325. Do you think there is any surplus number of natives in locations who might be obtained for labour purposes?—I think so.

326. Magistrates would, of course, consult such native men who would be able to assist them?—Yes.

327. You think those men would be forthcoming?—Yes, if any inducement were offered.

328. *Mr. de Villiers.*] I understood you to say that there was a possibility of obtaining labour for farm purposes from Engcobo?—Yes, if there were proper organisation on the part of Government.

329. You think families would be willing to come?—Yes, as I said before, provided Government would be willing to secure their land for them. If Government were to give back the land to them at any future time it would assist.

330. Arrangements could be made to that effect, I presume?—Yes.

331. You know several natives have taken service from time to time, do you know of any instances where Government have retained their names on the list so as to allow them to resume occupation of their land on their return?—According to the Glen Grey Act Government cannot do that because one of the provisions is that ground must be personally occupied and beneficially occupied by the allottee.

332. How has this acted in the past because many natives do take service in the Colony?—I know many do leave the territories but when they returned there has been the difficulty of getting the land back it having been given out by the headmen to those who stop at home.

333. That would be a matter of special arrangement that Government if possible should retain their land for re-occupation?—I think so, because they have no stock and they will go and work amongst the farmers to get some.

334. You know under the Glen Grey Act Government specially provided for the younger members of families to go out for service in the country?—Yes.

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335. The object evidently was that on their return they should go back to the land?—The younger men as a rule have no surveyed lands and the older men who have surveyed lands and go out are not able to re-occupy the land on their return according to the Glen Grey Act as they do not occupy their land beneficially.

336. I believe the object of the Glen Grey Act was to enable residents to go out for service?—I think the intention was that the younger members of families should go out to work amongst the farmers because they had no land, whereas if they did go out now the land would be taken away from them.

337. That is the position at present?—Yes.

338. *Chairman.*] Is it cultivated land you are speaking of?—Yes. Cultivated land which has been surveyed and given out in allotments.

339. What is the size of the land?—In some cases four morgen, others five. Some of them get in as much as 10 morgen.

340. What do they pay for that land?—For the four morgen they pay 10/- a year and a Council rate of 10/- a year in addition: but for each additional morgen £5 a year.

341. Have they a good market for their produce?—That is the difficulty. They hardly have any.

342. So they have to use their own produce?—Yes, when the country is properly opened up by railways they will have markets in East London and other towns.

343. What suggestion would you make with regard to their land being retained for them whilst they are away on service with farmers?—I certainly do think Government should be made to understand that it militates against natives going out to service, because if they leave others are waiting to

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get their land and when old age comes they would have no place to retire to.

344. What do you think would satisfy men if they are engaged by farmers?—I cannot say. I think it is mostly cattle they prefer as payment, because even if they go to the mines their main object is to buy cattle.

345. Do you think a sheep a month and all found would satisfy them?—I think it would. It all depends on the master. I know of some who would work for less if treated kindly by their masters. It takes time for them to know their masters well.

346. If Government took steps through the magistrates to obtain labour you as a missionary I suppose would be prepared to assist?—We, as missionaries, try to get the natives to go out to work. Being civilised creates certain wants and compels them to go out in order to get means of satisfying these wants.

347. Are you paid by the natives?—Yes, entirely.

348. Do they pay all right?—They have been paying very well when times are good, but now when times are bad they do not send in their money.

349. Do you think it is necessary for the natives to go out to the farmers to work?—Certainly. You will find it is the natives who work among the farmers who own anything and who can beneficially occupy their land.

350. Whom do you think would be the most useful people to get as labourers—the middle-aged men or the young men?—I think the middle-aged men because they will remain whereas the young ones will stay for six months or a year and then pass on again.

351. Which railway station is the nearest to the places you have mentioned?—The nearest railway station is Indwe. There is a post-cart from Engeobo to Indwe, but the nearest point to the

line is Elliot, but the difficulty of getting away from there is so great that one generally detains at Indwe.

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352. Say they had to walk to the nearest station where would they go?—Elliot would be the nearest.

Wednesday, 7th August, 1907.

PRESENT :

Mr. CLAASSENS (Chairman).

Mr. Wilmot.

Mr. Barrable.

Mr. Rogers.

Mr. Hurndall.

Mr. J. N. P. de Villiers.

The Honourable Arthur John Fuller, M.L.A.,
examined.

353. *Chairman.*] You were lately Secretary for Agriculture?—Yes.

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354. What was your occupation previous to that?—I was a farmer.

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355. In which part of the country?—In the Eastern Province—Stutterheim, Kei Road, Komgha and East London district.

356. Do you know the object of the Committee?—Yes.

357. What do you think could be done to supply farmers with labourers?—It is a very difficult problem to solve to the farmer in this country. In the Eastern Province, where the conditions are best known to me, the farmer to-day is finding very great difficulty indeed in getting anything like a continuity of labour, except he is prepared to offer big inducements to the natives in the shape of squatting rights. In most cases the farmers there augment their labour supply by leasing or buying a farm which is less valuable perhaps than the one they are farming on, with the object of putting squatters on it, and the condition made with these squatters is that a certain proportion of

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the labour required for the farmer's holding should be supplied by them. That is one of the means by which the Eastern Province farmer is able to get his labour supply. On the other hand that is becoming a very vexed question, for this reason, that these squatters make it almost intolerable for the farmer who may be farming next to them. The complaint is that these squatters are not under any supervision and they invariably live on the white farmer adjoining. To-day that is one of the greatest grievances in Stutterheim, Komgha and East London districts principally, and at the present moment there is a Commission of Inquiry sitting on that question. The whole question of labour supply is becoming more difficult every year, because unless farmers grant privileges to the natives to make beer they are boycotted, and I know many farmers are opposed to their making kafir beer, but are forced to give them this privilege. I think that the difficulty can only be met by introducing a measure prohibiting Kafir beer gatherings. I think they are very harmful as regards the labour supply, principally to those farmers who will not permit it. The worst feature of this beer drinking is that the native becomes a perfect sot for days after, and is good for nothing whilst the effects of the beer last.

358. *Mr. Wilmot.*] They put brandy in the beer? —No, they do not. Even without it the beer is very strong and harmful. You ask me to give a solution of the question of obtaining labour for farmers. I think it would take a wiser man than myself to do that, because in giving a solution you would have to take such steps as would mean dealing unfairly with another class of the community. My personal opinion is that the only solution of the difficulty is to introduce the old Locations Act which limited the number of natives who occupied certain land to those who could reasonably be expected to make a living out of such land. To-

day the Locations Act is such that you can drive a cart and horses through it. Really it is permissible for a farmer to have as many natives as he does have on his farm, and it has got to such a stage that farmers prefer to farm with natives than with holdings and this is a source of trouble to other farmers who are prepared to work their lands themselves and on their own account.

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359. *Chairman.*] According to evidence we have taken it would appear that natives have increased in locations. Do not you think we could obtain natives from such locations for the Midland and North-Western districts?—That is just the difficulty—the Kafir does not like leaving the location. He gets all the pleasures there which appeal to him, and unless the farmer is prepared to give him a certain amount of freedom to have beer drinks I am afraid he would not be willing to leave.

360. Last year I wrote to you as a member of the Government applying for labourers, and you told me that you would make inquiries. Have you made inquiries?—That was with regard to white labour. There were some poor whites who wanted to go out to work. I thought perhaps these men's services could be utilized on some farms, but it was found that the ordinary farmer was not sufficiently well off to pay for white labour. I do not know whether they have been spoilt by a cheap form of labour—giving a Kafir 10s. a month and 24 pounds of mealies per week and meat when a sheep died—whereas they would be called upon to pay a white man £1 or £2 and give him meat once a day, and also coffee and sugar.

361. Are you acquainted with the wages paid labourers in the North-Western districts?—No.

362. We pay a sheep per month and provide meal, sugar and coffee?—Those conditions do not hold good in the Eastern Province, where the farmer rarely gives his natives sheep except during the winter months when milk is not plentiful. The natives are satisfied with mealie rations together with milk and pumpkins.

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363. There is a special tariff on the railway for batches of ten natives of 10s. per head. That is rather a difficulty in cases where a farmer only wants two or three labourers. Could not the number be reduced?—Yes. I have made strong representations to the Commissioner on the application made by farmers that the number should be lowered. It used to be 50, and then it was reduced to 10. Of course the Railway Department allege that it would be a very losing game to them if the number was lowered still further, as only one or two natives might be travelling by the train, and special provision would have to be made for them. The Railway Department thought that the most they could do was to limit the number to 10. I quite see it would be a very great advantage to the farmer if he could get a lesser number, as it is very rarely that he would want ten.

364. *Mr. De Villiers.*] With regard to housing these natives, you are aware of the Act which allows the farmer to have a certain number of natives in a location on his farm. How would that answer in regard to simply having and providing for natives in that way if the farmer were to collect them, and have a central place, and give them a piece of land to cultivate?—I think that would very soon become a source of trouble to the adjoining farmers unless you are going to supervise the location. It is that evil the farmers are complaining about. Unless you made it a very strict condition that these men should go out to service every day many of them would indulge in beer drinks and get a hunger for mutton, and in consequence steal the farmer's stock.

365. I allude only to such people as are under contract?—It would be awkward, because the farms are larger in the North-Western Province and Midland districts than with us, and if the location were put in a place where married men could not get to their families every night, I do

not think it would appeal to them. In closer holdings I think you might be able to establish such a location, and that it would answer.

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366. You think it would be better to have them all near the homestead?—Yes. The farmer frequently makes use of the women for scuffling, and the children also.

367. The women would not always find employment?—No, it would not be constant. Of course the whole question has become a very serious one now. Originally these farms were let to natives, and in some instances natives purchased farms, and immediately they did that, they became a menace to the white farmer adjoining, and unless the latter was prepared to take on squatters they made it imperative on him to either sell his farm to the native, or take on squatters. Large tracts in the most valuable part of the Colony have fallen into the hands of this class of men, and whenever squatters are near a farm, the farmer knows his time has come, and that they will steal him out. Consequently he is forced to adopt one of two alternatives, either accept squatters or lease wholesale to natives.

368. Supposing a farmer takes one or two men with their families, and the advantages that would be held out to the natives would be that they would be paid with cattle, in course of time these natives would acquire a fair number of stock?—I may tell you that I found that that was the only way in which I could keep a continuity of labour. I always allowed my servants to keep a few head of cattle, and that was the only way I could keep any control over them; but unless you have a very large run, with four or five servants with eight or ten head of cattle each, it becomes impossible for a farmer to make a living whilst curtailing his own grazing in this way.

369. A farmer would not require more than two or three shepherds at the most?—Of course with pastoral farming so many would not be required, especially if the farms are fenced.

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370. *Mr. Hurndall.*] Your remarks relate more to the Transkeian Territories?—No, more to the districts of East London, Komgha, Stutterheim, Queenstown and Cathcart.

371. You say in your part a farmer gives a native 24 lbs. of mealies per week, and meat when a sheep dies. The system in the Midlands is generally to have a scale of rations—60 lbs. of grain per month, half meal and half grain; two slaughter sheep, tobacco, salt, coffee and sugar. How do you account for our having so great a difficulty in obtaining labour?—I think it is because you are further removed from their natural homes, and too far from their own people. If you could establish locations near by where they could visit their people, I think it would assist.

372. Have you any knowledge of the locations in the Colony—say the one at Alexandria?—The one I know most about is Mooiplaats.

373. You know there are large numbers of natives living all along the Coast in the neighbourhood of Alexandria?—I have no knowledge of those locations there, but I am aware that there are locations there.

374. You do not know that they are congested?—No.

375. Do not you think it would be possible to obtain labour from these locations in the Coast districts in the event of our not being able to obtain it from the Transkeian Territories?—I do not think the farmer is ever likely to draw his labour supply from those districts. You invariably find that these men go to the biggest centres, and they only labour sufficiently long to enable them to earn enough to keep them going. The farmer is not able to pay the wages which are paid at the mines or at the docks. The native likes his location, and he prefers that to going to live on a farm away from his friends. I do not think that these locations are of very much use to a farmer for continuous labour.

376. You mentioned just now that a farmer who allowed his servants to make kafir beer had no difficulty in obtaining labour. Is that a fact?—Yes.

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377. If you prevented the brewing of Kafir beer, what effect would it have on the native labour supply?—It would have a very beneficial effect.

378. Those farmers you spoke of who hire a farm and put squatters on it in order to get a supply of labour, do they come under the Location Act?—Some have what is termed a private location under the Location Act, but in the majority of cases they have simply allowed two or three families to squat there, and they draw their labour supply from these families, but the numbers do not exceed the numbers required under the Locations Act—where they do exceed that number they form a private location.

379. Are they not a source of danger?—Yes, they are a cause of great grievance at the present time. The farmer has to protect himself, and has to provide for his labour supply at the same time, and the process is working badly.

380. Do you find there is a tendency on the part of natives to drift into towns?—Yes, a very strong tendency.

381. Have you any knowledge of municipal locations?—Not very great knowledge. I watched their growth with some interest for many years and find they are growing tremendously.

382. We find they are hot-beds of thieves and drunkards, and no one seems to have any authority over them?—Yes, I was struck by that during my trip through Bedford and Albany. At Fort Beaufort two-thirds of the population are natives and one-third white. It is surrounded by three locations. I am told this is done for trade purposes. It is very rare that the farmer can get his labour supply from these locations, as the natives all go to the larger centres of labour. In this location they earn just as much as they please, and are

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allowed to run stock on the commonage, and they are a source of evil to the surrounding farmers.

383. Generally in these locations the men lie idle and the women go out to work?—Yes, but in this particular location, and in many others similarly situated, the natives are getting little allotments, and they get a grazing lease, and are allowed to run a few head of cattle and goats, and are farming in these places.

384. Only the municipalities have authority over the locations?—Yes.

385. Do you think it would be a good thing if the locations were controlled by the Cape Police?—Yes, I think it would be an advantage, and there should be a registration of all stock. Then you would have a splendid check, but under existing circumstances it is impossible to have a proper check because there is no authority except the municipality, and they do not mind unless they do not get their rents and revenue.

386. Most of the witnesses we have had have stated that if the farmers of the Midlands would pay natives in stock, and allowed them a certain amount of land to run the stock on, there would be no difficulty in obtaining labour?—I feel sure that would ameliorate the conditions, but do not see how the farmer is going to do that. That would be one solution, but then it is beset with difficulties.

387. From the evidence we have had one cause of the scarcity of labour appears to be owing to the recruiting of natives for mining purposes. Can you give us any information about that?—Yes, I think it is a very serious menace to the farmer being unable to obtain a labour supply. The young men of course will go to the larger centres of labour—that is the mining centres—and earn much more money in less time than they could do with a farmer, and that rather appeals to the mind of a native, because after all he loves his location and wants to get back to his own people, and the

conditions on a mine suit him far better than those on a farm, because very often he has to leave his parental home and all its associations, and he feels he is isolated on the farm. I fear the conditions are becoming more serious for the farmer. The flower of South Africa is now in the hands of the Transkeian native, and there is really no stimulus for him to go out, as he is able to pay for his immediate requirements by putting in a spasmodic form of labour.

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388. You think recruiting for the mines will cause labour to become still more scarce?—I certainly think it will have an effect on the labour supply.

389. *Mr. Rogers.*] You represent a large native constituency, do you not?—Yes.

390. You have travelled a good deal about the country in that direction?—Yes.

391. Have you had any complaints at all from natives about the district being over-populated?—Yes, the native is always complaining about that.

392. Is that correct?—I certainly think in parts of Tembuland it is over-populated. If it is not over-populated now, it is fast becoming so. It is not so much the case in Pondoland, but in Tembuland proper it certainly is.

393. What means of subsistence have these people?—At the present time a large number of them go out to labour centres. Those who remain are always able to earn sufficient money to pay their taxes, clothe their women and invariably grow sufficient stock on their holdings to meet their wants.

394. If they can live without thieving the district is not over-populated?—I have not alleged that they do not thieve. You did not elicit that information. If you ask me if there are cases of theft I can tell you without fear of contradiction that there are many.

395. I suppose it is the younger men who go out to work at the mines and the sea-port towns?—

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Yes, in the majority of cases, but occasionally some of the older men go.

396. Do you think it is possible to get middle-aged men with families to leave the Transkei and come into the Colony as shepherds?—Yes, those who have no land under the Glen Grey Act may be induced to come.

397. What inducement should be offered?—You would have to offer him a plot of land to cultivate for himself and family, and allow him to run a certain number of stock. Under those conditions you would induce him to come.

398. I think in the Midland and North-Western districts these facilities could not be given, because the farmers require all the land for their own use?—I see that.

399. It would be impossible to get men from the native territories to go to the North-Western or Midland districts without the inducements you mention?—There are occasions when you can get them, but as a rule I do not think you would get the better class without those inducements.

400. What is your opinion about the farm locations you have in Kaffraria?—I think they are hot-beds of thieves.

401. They are a bad lot?—Yes, as a rule.

402. And those in the Transkei?—I think the Transkeian native is a superior man, particularly in Tembuland.

403. You would not recommend anyone going to the Colonial farm locations for labour?—No. I do not think he would get a good class of labour there : I am sure not a satisfactory class, but from the Transkei he would get a far better sort of man and one who has not learnt all the vagaries of the other chap.

404. You live contiguous to these locations?—Yes, I had a farm adjoining one of the largest locations in Kaffraria, and in two weeks had two cases of thefts.

405. What is the percentage of natives trekking

into the Colony now compared with thirty years ago?—I think the conditions are much worse to-day.

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406. With regard to natives coming out to work?—The numbers are increasing of those coming out from the Transkei in search of work. They are driven out by force of circumstances. Civilization increases their wants, and they have to go out to find labour in order to earn money to satisfy those wants.

407. If they have increased during the past thirty years it is a hopeful sign for the future?—Yes, the most hopeful sign is that I find that Butterworth, which is the most thickly populated and most civilized district in the Transkei except Cala, sent out the biggest proportion of men to labour centres, showing that as they are becoming more civilized, they are going out to work.

408. *Mr. Barrable.*] You said that numbers of natives go to the towns. Do you know whether they are lying idle there?—Yes, there are great numbers of them living in idleness.

409. Can you suggest how they can be prevented from living there unless they worked?—I think if you have a proper supervision, and it was shown that a man has not visible means of existence, he should be compelled to leave the location, or go out to service.

410. How would you manage that?—I would have inspectors to go round and make inquiry, and if in their opinion a native is living on what he can get from those who are labouring, he should be forced to go out to labour. It is bad for the native, and it is bad for everybody, and I think he should be discouraged from living on the proceeds of other men's labour.

411. How could you make the regulation, and carry it out?—I think if proper inspection were made and a register kept the inspection officers could very soon ascertain what men were available for labour.

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412. That apparently is kept in many locations, but there is no compulsion, and unless you have some outside compulsion beyond the Municipality, it will not work?—I think Municipalities should make regulations that no natives should come into locations except for purposes of labour, and if they made a Municipal regulation, they could best carry it out.

413. How would you compel them to carry it out?—There is a difficulty there. One could bring in a law dealing with this question of labour, and I think this is a very important Committee dealing with the question now. You could make certain suggestions, and possibly legislation may be introduced to meet your purposes.

414. You think there is a lot of labour in locations that could be sent out?—Yes, wherever I have gone, ladies have complained that it is impossible to get anything done in the locations. They will not take washing, and there is great difficulty in getting servants. The girls live in idleness in these locations.

415. You would recommend this Committee to take that up strongly with a view to some measure being introduced which would compel them to go out to work?—Yes, I think no man should be permitted to lead a life of idleness in these places. The term "visible means of support" in the Act is the cause of the trouble, as they can easily prove that they have such means, and you cannot touch them.

416. There is no doubt that there is a lot of labour in locations which is not required there, and the object would be to get that labour sent from the locations to where it is required?—Yes, these locations are very harmful to the natives themselves, and they become demoralized.

417. *Mr. Wilmot.*] As a member of the Government, have you made enquiries in the Portuguese territories as to labour being available there for farmers?—No.

418. Could not we ask Government to see whether some of the labour there could be diverted into the Colony?—I think it would be inadvisable; seeing the number of natives we have in the Colony we should draw on our own supply. I think that every effort should first be made in that direction.

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419. We know that the Chinese are being sent out of the Transvaal, and that recruiting is going on for the mines amongst the natives here, and there is reason to fear that unless very large payment is made the Western Province farmer will not get labour. Do you think any good may come from trying the Portuguese territories?—It would be well worth trying, but I may say that the reason those natives go out to labour is because they are permitted to take strong drink. If that were allowed, they would soon become a demoralized people.

420. *Mr. de Villiers.*] Some of the witnesses have intimated that there is something like congestion in the locations, especially in the Transkei. What is your opinion about that?—I should not say it is wholly congested in the Transkei, but I think it is tending in that direction. There are some locations becoming very thickly populated, and I can hardly see under existing conditions where the native is becoming civilized that he will be able to live there. I think the possibilities are they will have to find an outlet somewhere.

421. Do you think nearer here the same conditions apply?—Yes, in King William's Town they have a very large population—over 100,000 natives.

422. What could be done to bring some pressure to bear upon these people, especially the young men who go out to work?—I would say the whole question is largely in the farmer's hands, and I think he must offer encouragements. We have to encourage these people to come out and labour, and offer them some advantages. Natives, of

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course, will only go to labour where they can congregate amongst their own people. The farmers must use a beneficial influence over these people to encourage them to live decently. I tried that, and I never changed my labour for 30 years. My natives were always satisfied. I occasionally allowed my own servants beer drinks, but discouraged Beer Gatherings, and they seemed to like the life.

423. Do not you think Government could do much by offering a premium to labour. Was the Glen Grey Act not an encouragement to young men to go out to work?—The unfortunate thing about that, or rather the fortunate thing, was that the labour clause was done away with. We do not force any man to go out to work.

424. Would you call that forcing where you offer a premium for young men to go out to work?—You fine him ten shillings if he does not go out to work, and I do not like that because very often a parent will have to keep his son as a help to himself, and I do not like the clause for the further reason that it cuts at the liberty of the subject.

425. Was not the condition this that the father of the family had a holding in the location, and the younger men had no holding on the land, and Government expected that they would earn a livelihood, and in order to encourage them to earn a livelihood, they were asked to pay a tax?—Yes, but there are some very amusing instances with regard to that. A father found in many instances where he had cultivation that he had to depend on the sons to help him, and found that it was of more value to him to pay the 10s., and get his son to assist him.

426. *Mr. Barrable.*] Do you not think that if the Glen Grey Act as originally drawn was made applicable to the whole of the Colony that European as well as Native would be benefited by it, and that there would not have been such a scarcity of labour for farmers?—Yes, I think it would have had a beneficial effect on the labour supply.

427. If labourers can be obtained from some place or other would you be prepared to give Magistrates instructions to get the natives through their headmen in order to supply farmers with their labourers?—Yes. Dr. Jameson has control of native affairs, and I am quite sure he would be only be too pleased to give that instruction.

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Friday, 9th August, 1907.

PRESENT :

MR. CLAASSENS (Chairman.)

Mr. J. N. P. De Villiers.
Mr. Rogers.
Mr. Wilmot.

Mr. Michau.
Mr. Hurndall.

Mr. Dirk Johannes Viljoen, M.L.A., Examined.

428. *Chairman.*] You are a Member of the House of Assembly?—Yes.

Mr.
D. J. Viljoen,
M.L.A.

429. You know the object of this Committee?—Yes.

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430. Where do you live?—Hanover.

431. Is there any scarcity of labour there?—Yes there is a great difficulty in getting labour there.

432. What is the cause of that—is it because they are not paid enough, and that if better wages were given farmers would obtain more labour?—No, there has never been any complaints on their part as regards wages, and I think the pay is good.

433. What are the wages you pay, including everything?—Usually we pay a sheep or goat per month, and give clothes, tobacco, and veldschoens.

434. And coffee and sugar?—No, usually the kafirs do not take that.

435. What becomes of the cattle which you give to your labourers?—They run amongst our cattle. Wherever ours go, theirs do.

Mr. 436. Your rams run amongst their sheep as well ?
 D. J. Viljoen, — Yes.
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 Aug. 9, 1907. 437. The labourers do not pay anything for the dipping of their sheep?—In one or two cases farmers may make them pay, but generally their sheep are dipped together with the farmers'.

438. What do you think could be done in order to get over the difficulty of the scarcity of labour?—The greatest difficulty is in regard to obtaining house servants, and if you cannot get them the other labourers naturally get scarce also. In my opinion Government has along the Railway line too many men and women living in railway cottages. At every cottage you will find a number of girls who do not do any work, and I think that is one of the reasons why labourers are so scarce. Then again in the villages there are a large number who do not work. In Hanover a few years ago a number died from fever, and the opinion of the doctors was that they were half starved, as they had too little food. Every year a number of them die in a larger proportion than the whites.

439. Are there not regulations that coloured people may not remain in villages if they do not work?—I think it depends on the Magistrate. Some of them will inspect the locations once every month or quarter, and prosecute those who do not work, but you get others who will not do that. I think Municipalities should have more rights and should do these things themselves.

440. *Mr. de Villiers.*] With regard to dipping, as a rule labourers have not many sheep?—No, but I have seen cases where they have been on one farm for a long time, and have possessed as many as three hundred sheep and goats, but generally before it gets to that stage the farmer makes a change.

441. In your part of the country it is usual for a man to bring his family with him?—Yes.

442. Do they live near the homestead, or are they sent to outside posts?—Usually, they are

kept near the homestead, but sometimes they are sent to outside posts.

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443. You have work for the women and children at the homestead?—Yes. We do not allow any of them on the farm who do not work. The women and children also get work, and they get paid for it.

444. How do you usually feed them—with mealies?—It depends on the labourers. Sometimes we get some who will not eat mealies, and you have to give flour.

445. You give mealies and flour?—Yes, and vegetables in season.

446. Do you supply meat also?—Yes, that is most important.

447. What meat do you usually give?—Formerly we gave a slaughter sheep each week, but lately we say a man must come out on a sheep for ten or twelve days.

448. You give other things in addition?—Yes, flour or mealies each day. I have never heard of any complaints in that direction. Of course you do get some who complain, but, generally speaking, there is no complaint.

449. Where do you get your labourers from—the Municipal location or the inhabitants of your district, or from the Transkei?—Most of our labourers come from Kafirland. They trek through the district.

450. It has never been necessary to send there for them?—Yes, a short while ago I asked my son to write to the Magistrate of De Aar to obtain labourers for me, and he replied it could not be done through him.

451. You wanted to see whether he would be a medium for getting labourers from the Transkei?—Yes.

452. But there did not appear to be any chance of that?—No.

453. Is it your opinion that in municipal locations there are too many people for the work?—Yes, there always seems to be too many there.

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454. You think it would be a good thing to have a change there, and that the municipality should have more power to take action against those who do not work?—Yes, municipalities should have more power to see that things are better regulated.

455. You find it difficult to obtain house servants—women and children from the locations?—Yes, in all the villages ladies are complaining, and I have presented a petition to the House of Assembly signed by ladies on the subject of the inability to get servants and children to work in their houses.

456. *Mr. Michau.*] I understood you to say that the greatest difficulty was in obtaining house servants. They are therefore servant girls you refer to?—Yes.

457. What is the reason of that scarcity?—I think it is because so many girls are allowed to live in Railway cottages, and the men who work on the Railway earn enough to keep them. They do not spend much, for farmers kraals are open at night, and so they have no difficulty in living. I do not know why they should be so scarce in villages, because you usually see enough women there.

458. Is it not because the servant girls want their mistresses to allow them time to play croquet or tennis?—I have heard that that is so.

459. Naturally the mistresses cannot allow that?—No, we want their services at that time.

460. Have you any difficulty in getting labour for piece-work?—Yes, on the farms, but not usually in the villages.

461. Usually labourers will rather do piece-work than take on permanent work?—Yes.

462. *Mr. Hurndall.*] Are there many people living in the railway cottages who are not connected with railway work?—I cannot say there are many men, but there are always a number of girls, and my opinion is that Govern-

ment should as far as possible only have men labourers there. I think they could manage that if they got natives from time to time from the Transkei.

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463. But the scarcity of labour is not only confined to women, but also to shepherds?—Yes. A man may come to a farm with his wife and four or five children, and if the farmer hires the man he must support the women and children as well.

464. If the women worked, would there be enough labourers?—Yes, I think there would be enough if they are kept away from the railway cottages. The great complaint is that the women will not work.

465. The complaint is that shepherds are wanted?—The great difficulty is in regard to house servants. In the villages there are enough women, but usually they will not work, and then we cannot take their husbands either, because we cannot support the wives and children if they will not work.

466. What is the food a shepherd usually gets?—A rib or so of mutton and a piece of bread two or three fingers thick in the morning, and in the evening a pound or so of flour more or less.

467. Could his family live on that?—No, the family get their food apart from that. If you hire a man you are forced to feed his women and children, although they do not work. They cannot live on the food you give the shepherd.

468. Do you think it would be a good thing if there was a law empowering municipalities to clear all people out of locations who did not work?—Yes, for example, in the locations in Hanover and De Aar, I think if the people there who did not work were driven out and sent amongst the farmers, I consider we would have enough labourers, men and women, and the women should also be driven away from the Railway cottages.

469. You say there are no people at those

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cottages who are not connected with Railway work?—I do not think there are any such men, but there are several women at each cottage. }

470. *Chairman.*] Do you think that the people you speak of living along the Railway line are people farmers always used to engage as labourers?—Yes I think they are.

471. You think it would be advisable that Government should employ young men on the Railway line so that the women and other labourers can go on to the farms?—Yes if they made a rule to get every three months or so men from the native territories without women it would be a good thing. I have spoken to the Commissioner about the matter, and he said he would inquire into it.

472. *Mr. de Villiers.*] You think that the people who work on the railway line are not natives who come from the native territories, but people who formerly were working for farmers in the Cape Colony?—Yes.

473. That reduces the supply of labour which would otherwise be available for farmers?—Yes, certainly, as otherwise they would be spread among the farmers.

474. Therefore it would be a good thing to get men from the native territories to do Government work, and then these people would be free to go among the farmers?—Yes.

475. *Mr. Michau.*] What sort of labourers do you think are better—the educated native or the raw kafir?—Farmers prefer raw kafirs, as they are better to work with, and can be taught. Of course you do come across good labourers among the educated class, but usually they are too big for their boots.

(At this stage Mr. Claassens left the meeting, and the chair was taken by Mr. Wilmot.)

Mr. Louis Frederick Zietsman, M.L.A., examined.

Mr.
L. F. Ziets-
man. M.L.A.

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476. *Acting Chairman.*] You know the object of this Committee, it is to inquire into the possibility of obtaining a supply of native labour for the farms of the North-Western and Midland districts from the Eastern Province?—The question of the supply of labour for agricultural purposes is one which I have had under consideration all the time I was in the Native Territories. The great difficulty was that the older men who have been accustomed to work on farms, and who have settled down, generally find plenty of land; they have been able to accumulate stock, and there is little necessity for them to go to work in the Colony proper. The younger men who have grown up in the Territories are not accustomed to service on farms; on the other hand they have been induced to take employment on the mines and the different docks on the coast. They prefer this, as they have more liberty, their evenings are their own, and they can wander about. The principal thing was that they got a wage, which is of course more than the agriculturist could pay. If they were skilled in agricultural labour you might be able to get them at a fairly decent wage, but they are not so skilled as the men of the Western Province, and when they go to the mines they get their wage whether their work is well done or not. Besides, they can earn enough in six months on the mines to enable them to return to their homes and live without work. If you increased the Hut Tax that might help a bit, but I do not know how far it would compel the natives to work. I think the tax would have to be so high that Parliament would never pass it. However, the Hut Tax is a matter the native understands; he realises that the land belongs to the Chief, and he does not object to pay for it, so that by increasing the Hut Tax it might help a little in forcing the native to work. Then there is the system which was tried

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in Natal, where the Chief must supply the labour of a certain number of men. But that system is working badly. There are no Divisional Councils there, and the Government keeps the roads in repair, and they are using the labour of a number of natives on the press system. The question will be solved by the gradual over-crowding of the Native Territories. In some parts of the Territories they are getting so crowded that they can hardly manage to keep any cattle. In some parts they are going in for what they call "nigger farming." That is, they let out their farms to native tenants, who squat there and pay a much higher rent to the owner of the farm than any white man would pay, and this system is having a very detrimental effect on the labour supply of the Colony. Then I would advocate the trial of the system of the Glen Grey Act or the Transkei, by which the land is cut up among the people. That, I think, would have the most effect. Then you have the locations, you have a large number of persons there, and there is no limit, and a lot of lazy young men spend their time in going from hut to hut and from location to location drinking beer and living on their friends. These young men defy the chiefs who have no authority to turn them out of the locations. If the land is cut up and divided among the members of the locations, then the land is their own, and they can turn off the loafers, and as the land is getting overcrowded, it will help to drive the young men out to work. In this the Native Affairs Department might help by inducing the men to accept service on the farms. I think these are the only points, short of compelling the native to go out to work. As far as the ordinary service is concerned the native makes a good servant, if he is trained and disciplined. They are strong, and they have a fair amount of character, and if properly trained would make good servants. Of course the native will not go out to work unless it is necessary for him to do so.

477. *Mr. Rogers.*] You represent a constituency in which there is a large native population?—Yes.

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478. I suppose you are well acquainted with the conditions of native life?—Yes.

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479. Is there any over-crowding in East Griqualand?—Not in East Griqualand, except in the Districts of Matatiele, Umzinkulu, Tsolo and in some other parts.

480. I suppose the people are peaceful and happy, and that they have no reason to go out to work?—Yes.

481. There is no possibility then of getting native labour, I mean farm labour, from East Griqualand?—No. I think there is little hope of that.

482. *Mr. Michau.*] You think that by applying, or extending the Glen Grey Act it would cause trouble?—I do not say it would if you got men like Colonel Stanford to go and persuade the natives to accept it.

483. You think the natives would be more willing to pay a Hut tax rather than a Poll Tax?—Yes, the native cannot understand the Poll tax, but he understands the Hut tax, as I mentioned before.

484. You said the younger classes of men were not accustomed to labour?—I mean on the farms.

485. What effect has education on the native?—I do not think the education among the natives has had a beneficial effect for manual work, it did not have the effect of encouraging them to go in for farm labour. They prefer to flock to the towns and the more educated they become the less they like the idea of farm labour.

486. *Mr. de Villiers.*] You spoke just now of a Hut tax and a Poll tax, which of these was applied in the case of the Glen Grey Act?—No, I said the native paid a Hut tax, but not a Poll tax.

487. You spoke of a tax in connection with the Glen Grey Act on the young men?—No, there was an additional tax of 10s. levied on men who did did not go out to work.

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488. This was intended to get the young men out to work?—Yes it was intended for that, but it failed in its object.

489. Well, if that failed what reason is there to expect that a Poll tax would be acceptable?—No, a Poll tax would not be acceptable, but a Hut tax would be.

490. Then that tax would fall on the older men, the younger men would not be forced to seek employment?—The young men generally have to go and work to find money to pay the Hut tax.

491. Why was the Glen Grey Act so much opposed if that was so?—It was because the men had to work who had to pay the 10s., it was not in respect of any hut, it was merely a personal tax.

492. What effect would it have if you increased the Hut tax?—It would probably help things, but I do not think it will go very far. In considering the native in the Transkei, the tax they contribute is too small. they can easily pay more.

493. What is the amount?—10s.

494. How much would you raise it, to 15s.?—I would raise it to a sovereign, and I do not think you would have much trouble to get the money.

495. What would you suggest then?—I think that the extending of the Glen Grey Act in a modified form would help, if you gave the man a plot of land, then he would be able to turn away the loafers, and these then might be induced to go to work.

496. Then you think there are a good many men available for work?—No question of that.

497. *Mr. Michau.*] Is there much stock theft in your neighbourhood?—There is a little, but not to any great extent, and then only when the men have been to a big beer drink.

498. Is there much native farming going on in your part of the country?—There is some.

The following questions were sent by telegraph to Mr. Erskine, a Labour Agent at Queenstown. His replies thereto are appended :—

Mr.
Erskine.

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1. Are labourers obtainable to send to Midland and Western Provinces?—Consider labourers are procurable for farm labour.
2. Upon what terms could such labourers be employed (men, women and children)?—Employed in Western Province, men, women and children would probably demand 30s., 10s., and 5s. per month respectively, with free quarters and rations : employed in Midland districts, somewhat less for men.
3. What sources are available for such labour?—Labour procurable in most parts of Glen Grey and Transkei if undertaking properly organised.
4. Could you arrange supply if money guaranteed or forwarded you?—I will undertake supply if remuneration compatible with trouble and expense to be incurred.

Note by Mr. Erskine : Replies given are based on my knowledge, but if desired will make exhaustive inquiries, and advise you more fully.

Tuesday, 13th August, 1907.

PRESENT.

Mr. CLAASSENS (Chairman).

Mr. Michau.

Mr. Hurndall.

Mr. J. N. P. De Villiers.

Mr. Barrable.

Mr. William Thomas, M.L.A.,
examined.

Mr.
W. Thomas,
M.L.A.

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499. *Chairman.*] You are a member of the Legislative Assembly?—Yes.

500. You know the object of this Committee?—Yes.

501. Where do you live?—On the borders of the Albany and Alexandria Districts.

502. What is your profession?—I am a farmer.

503. Have you any difficulty in obtaining labourers?—Yes, I have had considerable difficulty.

504. What is the reason for this?—One reason is that the natives do not like farm labour, they get employment on the Railway, and the young men

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come down to the sea ports and work at the Docks.

505. Have you many locations in your neighbourhood?—Yes, we have a number of locations.

506. What tribes are they principally?—Gaika and Gcaleka.

507. Are they good workers?—Yes.

508. Do they sometimes go to the mines for work?—No, not from our parts, they prefer going to the coast.

509. Are there many living in the locations?—Yes, a large number live in the locations.

510. Are the numbers increasing in these locations?—Yes, very fast indeed.

511. Can you make any recommendations whereby these men can be made to come out to work on the farms in the surrounding districts?—Yes, I think the locations should be under police control, but the evil is at present that they have their friends living on them, and a number of young men are loafing about, living on their relatives, but on account of native custom and the fear of witchcraft the members of the location dare not turn them away. I think that if the Vagrancy Act were brought to bear on these loafers it would be a good thing.

512. You are more in favour of the police having control than the magistrate?—Yes, if we want labourers the police would be in a better position to know who could go out to work than the police officer, where that officer is the Location Inspector, owing to the amount of office work, he is unable to make his inspections as frequently as is necessary.

513. Then if we wanted labourers we should send to the magistrate or the police?—I do not know. What I mean is that the police would be better able to know the position of affairs.

514. *Mr. Michau.*] Under the present law have the police any right to interfere in the locations?—I do not think that they can visit at any time, only the Inspector of Locations can do that, and then he does not go as a police officer.

515. But would he have any power to turn away loafers?—I do not know, but I think he only visits the locations in order to keep a record of the stock.

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516. You complain of your want of labourers, what kind of labourers?—Both kinds, both farm labour and general labour. There is considerable difficulty in getting any labour.

517. Would you be in favour of increasing the hut tax?—Hut tax is being paid. On the private locations on the farms they are paying hut tax as well as another tax of 20s., amounting to £1 10s. in all.

518. I thought the hut tax was only 10s.?—That is the amount they pay Government when working on the halves system.

519. Do you think that the want of labour is due to insufficient inducements from the farmers I—I cannot say that. They get a fair wage. ? have not had any complaints on those lines.

520. *Mr. Hurndall.*] You are well acquainted with the coast districts?—Yes.

521. How far up the coast do you know?—The whole of my Constituency.

522. There are large numbers of natives in your Constituency?—Yes.

523. Are the locations in those districts at all overcrowded?—Yes, they are getting very overcrowded.

524. How do they live on these locations?—The loafers live on their relatives.

525. Do the farmers suffer much from stock thefts?—Yes, and I have had several experiences of that nature.

526. Is much of the land given to natives on the halves system?—Yes, a good deal.

527. Is that system detrimental to the neighbouring farmers?—Yes.

528. What control is there over these natives?—There is no control except that of the master, the owner of the farm.

529. Do they like being tenants?—Yes.

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530. Are they under any supervision in the locations?—No, except when they are visited by the Inspector of Locations.

531. Can you suggest any means by which these people could be induced to come to the Midlands to work?—No, except no loafers were allowed in the locations.

532. Do you think that if that could be done there would be sufficient labour obtainable?—Yes.

533. *Mr. Dé Villiers.*] You are aware that under the Police Offences Act the police have the right to arrest men and make them take service if found loafing in the towns, would they have the same power in the case of Municipal Locations?—If that could be done that would have a good effect.

534. As a matter of fact that is not done?—As far as I know it is not done.

535. You think it would have a good effect?—Yes.

536. Do you know that there are a good many men who have no employment at the places of which you speak?—Yes, in Alexandria and Albany.

537. Are you aware of men out of employment?—Yes, a large number.

538. What do they live on?—On their relatives. If the time of their visiting their relatives could be limited, and if the police could visit the locations and turn off those who had overstayed their time, these men might be induced to work.

539. Have any of these Municipalities any regulations concerning this in connection with the location?—I do not know.

540. Would it not be useful if the Municipalities made regulations with regard to idlers?—Yes. I have been told that there are a large number of natives who are unemployed and it would be a very good thing.

541. *Chairman.*] Are you a stock farmer?—Yes, and also agriculture.

542. What do you pay your labourers, shepherds and such like?—10s. to 12s. with their food, etc.

543. Do you pay the women and children?—
Yes, if they work.

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544. If you increased the payments to natives do you think it would make any difference?—No.

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545. They do not complain of the payment?—No they never ask for higher wages.

546. *Mr. Hurndall.*] Do you know anything about municipal locations?—No.

547. Have you noticed any tendency on the part of the natives to drift into the towns?—Yes. I have heard that a large proportion of these natives live on what the servants can bring out, or on what they can steal.

548. You have heard of complaints of these municipal locations?—Yes.

549. Have you heard that they harbour idlers?—Yes. I would like to say that they do not like to work, and if they can manage to live on their relatives they will do so, as by Kafir law they are unable to drive away relatives who are living on them.

550. *Mr. Michau.*] How does witchcraft affect the question?—The natives are still firm believers in the powers of witchcraft, and they think that if they turn away their relatives they may get bewitched.

551. *Chairman.*] Are they also making beer?—Yes.

552. Are they allowed to make beer?—A few farmers allow it on their farms, but, as a rule, it is forbidden, and where it is allowed it is the cause of much trouble to the neighbouring farmers.

553. *Mr. Michau.*] Have you heard anything of Kafir servants wanting to play games, croquet, etc.?—No.

554. *Chairman.*] Then you think that the loafers in the locations should be made to go out to work?—Yes.

Thursday, 15th August, 1907.

PRESENT :

Mr. CLAASSENS (Chairman).

Mr. Wilmot.

Mr. Barrable.

Mr. Rogers.

Mr. J. N. P. de Villiers.

Mr. Michau.

Colonel William Joseph Warren, C.M.G., M.L.A.,
examined.

Col.
W. J. Warren.
C.M.G.,
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555. *Chairman.*] You are a member of the
Legislative Assembly?—Yes.

556. Do you know the object of this Committee?
—Only from what appears on the summons. I see
that I am to give evidence on the labour question.

557. Where do you live?—Stutterheim.

558. What is your occupation?—I am a farmer.

559. Are you a stock farmer?—Stock and agri-
culture both.

560. Have you any difficulty in your neighbour-
hood of getting sufficient labour?—Yes, we have
considerable difficulty.

561. Have you any Kafir locations near you?—
There are Kafir locations all over the place, and in
the Kingwilliamstown district there is a native
population of nearly 100,000.

562. What tribes go to make up this population?
—There are Gaika and Gcaleka, and a large number
of others, including Fingoes.

563. What is the reason, under these circum-
stances, that labour is so difficult to obtain?—Well,
after a season like the present one, when there has
been plenty of rain, the native crops have been
very plentiful, and the natives have no reason to
go out to work.

564. Then they have sufficient to live on?—Yes.

565. What then would you recommend as a
means of obtaining labour?—There are a large
number of farms which are leased to natives, and
they are gradually being filled up by other natives,
and it is difficult to see how they pay their rent at

all and live. If I could give them land to plough, and to squat on, then I could get labour, but I do not believe in this system, and I will not do it. The highest wages I give is £1 per month per man, but I feed his wife and children, and give him grazing for 10 or 12 cattle and a piece of ground to plough, and a suit of clothes once a year, but even with this it is difficult to get boys to work. If it could be done I would suggest that by law they should not be allowed to lease land in the manner I have stated.

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566. Do you think any of these natives would go out to work?—I doubt it. They are too tied to their habits of life, and they do not like to leave the neighbourhood where all their relatives live.

567. I suppose they make beer?—Yes. any amount.

568. Have you any knowledge of Municipal Locations?—No.

569. *Mr. de Villiers.*] You said there were Gaikas, Gealekas and Fingoes in your Districts, are there any Tembus?—No, those are principally in the Glen Grey District, and in the Transkei.

570. Do they come out into your district for work?—No, except as shearers, work which they do well, and for which we pay them well, but they are very independent.

571. These men who come out then want to be their own "bosses"?—The difficulty is to get them to engage as monthly servants.

572. Won't they stay any length of time?—No, that is the great difficulty.

573. Of course it is more convenient to have a servant engaged by the month?—Of course it is. If you hire him for one month you know you have him for two, because he must give notice.

574. What about daily paid men?—They are most unsatisfactory. You do not always pay them daily, and the consequence is that when you do pay them, there is a very good prospect of them clearing off, and you never see them again.

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575. These men prefer then to lease a piece of ground from the farmer, why should that be looked upon as squatting, and, therefore, objectionable?—It is held to be so by law. You cannot take these people on to your farm except by permission of the Divisional Council.

576. What control is there over these natives?—There is no control. What the farmer wants to know is—if there is a man on his place, how is he getting his living, honestly or not.

577. Have you any experience of the Transkeian natives?—Only as shearers, not as ordinary workers.

578. Can you give us any information as to how we could obtain labour from the Transkei?—The only way is to apply to the Magistrates, and through them to get the labourers.

579. That system has been carried out before?—I believe so.

580. And you think there is a probability of our getting servants in the Midlands from those districts?—I should say that by writing to one of the Magistrates you might get them to come, but then only for three months.

581. If they got on well would they not prolong their stay, that is if they found the conditions of life suitable to them?—They might.

582. *Chairman.*] Is it too far for them to come?—No, it is not that, only they prefer finding their work nearer home.

583. *Mr. Michau.*] Do you condemn this system of Kafir farming?—Yes. Nearly the whole of the Komgha district is farmed in this manner.

584. Is not the land valuable?—Formerly it was so for sheep, but it went off, and the farmers tried to get a living some other way, and then they got the natives on the land.

585. Would the farmers have any other means of livelihood?—I think the more energetic part of the population is against this system.

586. Are these locations under any supervision?—They are under the Cape Police.

587. The scarcity of labour is not then due to want of sufficient wages?—No. When a native is hard up you can get labour, but when there has been a good season he only goes out to supply his extra wants, which are few.

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588. You say his wants are few, could these be increased?—Yes, we might do that, but whether it would be wise is another thing.

589. Would you be opposed to a hut tax?—No. They already pay one.

590. Have you any large town locations in your district, Municipal locations?—Yes, I think so. In Kingwilliamstown there are two.

591. The Council derives a good revenue from these locations, does it not?—I think so.

592. Are these locations a cause of trouble?—I could not say.

593. Would you be in favour of any alteration in the present Location Act?—Oh, yes. You know last Session we had a Committee on the Act and made certain recommendations. One of the points raised was the leasing of land to natives, and this we considered the worst. For instance two men hire a farm for £48 a year and then they can take in any number of tenants at £12 a head, and I have been told of a farm on which there were six hundred people living.

594. *Mr. Rogers.*] You stated that there are a number of locations in your district, are these overcrowded?—In Kingwilliamstown they are Government locations and there are a large number of places under the control of headmen and magistrates. Then in the Stutterheim district there are farms which have been turned into locations by leasing the land. In Komgha there are any number.

595. Did you say these are overcrowded?—Yes, some certainly are.

596. I suppose the farmers living near these have plenty of labour?—No, where you are near a farm of this description and you do not take the

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natives on the same system you are boycotted, and you can get no labour at all.

597. It would be utterly impossible to get farm labour from there for the Midlands?—Yes.

598. Can you suggest any scheme by which these people could be induced to go out to work?—No.

599. *Mr. Wilmot.*] There are a number of people in the locations who will not go out to work, are there not? Are there no means whereby you could get at the loafers in these locations?—You might pass a stringent Vagrancy Act, and give the police power to imprison or send out to work those who were doing nothing.

600. *Mr. Barrable.*] Are these locations created by the farmers?—Yes, and in very many cases the farmer gives over the whole of his land and does not live on it himself.

601. Do they get leave from the Divisional Council to do this?—Yes.

602. On some of these farms do not the farmers say that this system is a good one?—That is probably the case.

603. I mean the farmers will allow the native to squat?—Yes.

604. Do you know whether these farms have any effect on the neighbouring farms?—Yes, and we complain of our losses of stock. There is a lot of stealing going on.

605. *Mr. Rogers.*] These natives living on the farm locations, do they bear a good reputation among the other farmers?—My experience has been this, that a man who has been turned out of the Government location, or who may have been away working and has accumulated some money, if he finds he cannot go back into his own native location he comes out and hires ground. Well, some of these are not of the best character.

606. Then you say the reputation is generally not good?—Putting it that way, no.

607. *Mr. de Villiers.*] This system of natives

coming into these locations—is that the general practice ; do most of the farms get their labour in this manner?—Oh, no. The stock farmer prefers to hire his servants by the month or year. The people who do that are mostly non-resident.

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608. Then is there not a strong opposition to the system?—Yes.

609. Has there been any deputation?—Yes, they intended to send a deputation to see the Government on this question, but a Commission has gone up there, and they are going into it. The occupation of ground by natives was getting too serious a matter altogether.

610. Was this Commission recently appointed?—Yes, it is working now.

611. *Mr. Michau.*] What is the main question?—It originated with our report on the Location Act which went into the whole question of squatting on farms and the leasing of farms.

612. As a rule do those living in the locations turn off strangers?—Not as a rule.

613. Why is that?—The native will not do it. If a man comes along they will take him in for the night. There is very little class distinction, and they will take in anybody.

614. It is not on account of being afraid of witchcraft?—No, I do not think so.

General Sir Edward Yewd Brabant, K.C.M.G., M.L.A., examined.

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—

615. *Chairman.*] You are a Member of the House of Assembly?—Yes.

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616. You know the object of this Committee?—No, I have not been told.

617. Well, we are trying to find a means of obtaining labour for the farms of the Midland and North-Western districts from the Eastern districts. What is your occupation?—I am a farmer, at least I was a farmer.

618. Can you make any recommendation to us as to how to get native labour for the Western

Gen. Sir E. Y. Province ?—You mean Kafir labour ? It is a very difficult question. The only way is to have small locations.

Aug. 15, 1907. 619. Have you many locations round your district ?—Yes, we have a very large native population, some in locations, some on farms.

620. What do they live on ?—Well, on my farm, when I bought it I found twenty native families living there, but my son who went in for stock farming did not want so many, so we only kept eight families, who each pay £20 a year rent, and these men are all engaged in transport riding. A number of families will club together and purchase wagons and teams and run in conjunction. This is the system all over the Komgha district.

621. Are they doing fairly well ?—Not so well this year, certain restrictions have been put into operation on account of the lung-sickness.

622. *Mr. Wilmot.*] Can you give us any suggestions as to getting these men ?—No, the only thing I can suggest is this. The natives are purchasing land, and if that is allowed to go on the result will be that not only will there be no labour, but the white man will be frozen out, and as they purchase the land they are independent of labour, and they will not go out to work at all.

623. Can you see any way by which this could be stopped, by the Vagrancy Act or otherwise ?—Most of these men will work, and there is plenty of work, and there is no difficulty in getting labour, but you will never get the kafir away from his home.

624. Can you see any probability of obtaining labourers for us if Government took the matter in hand ? Do you think they could be induced to leave their homes ?—If they get the same rate of wages they get in Johannesburg on the mines you may get them, but not for longer periods than six months. I may say I was told that De Beers could get any number of men, because they knew that they would get their money, and they knew the conditions, and were satisfied with them.

625. *Mr. Rogers.*] You have lived in East London and Komgha districts for many years? —Yes, ever since I left the Army. I settled there in 1870.

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626. What is the reason that a large number of the farms are being turned into squatting grounds? —That has only happened recently because you could not do any stock farming. After a few years the tick increased to such an extent that sheep could not be kept, and for many years the farms were practically becoming vacant, except those that were broken up. A great number of farms were vacant, but now that is overcome in consequence of dipping, and land has gone up in value.

627. The farmers then could not make it pay?—A great many of them were glad to get Kafir tenants. Now again a very serious state of affairs is coming to pass. I know of a farm which was cut up into 1,100 lots, which the farmer has sold to Kafirs, and the other day I heard that another farmer, owning two fine farms, has also divided his farm, and is selling the lots. This is a most serious matter as there is no control over the natives, and they are driving the white man out of the country.

628. This is carrying out the principle of closer settlement?—Yes, so far as the Kafir goes.

629. Do you not think it a good policy for the Kafir to work rather than be idle?—They would not remain idle.

630. You stated just now that the farmers could not make things pay?—That was some time ago.

631. I was speaking of that time. Do you think it possible that the farmers in the Colony could absorb the whole of its natives as labourers?—Yes, from what I know of the country I should say so.

632. *Mr. Michau.*] In the Transvaal the native is not able to get title for his land?—I believe so. The Native Congress has written to me on

Gen. Sir E. Y. this subject, and they ask me why they cannot
 Brabant. hold the land. I replied that the white man could
 K.C.M.G., not hold the land in the Native Territories. but
 M.L.A. the native can buy land in our part.
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633. Would you be in favour of a more stringent Vagrancy Act?—No.

634. To what do you attribute the fact that a white man cannot exist on land where there are a number of native families who not only exist but make money?—The farms are too big. The small farmer will live where the large one will get insolvent.

635. Has education the effect of making the natives work?—No.

636. What effect has it had?—The effect is that they go into the towns and look for work there.

637. *Mr. de Villiers.*] With regard to the subdivision of farms, do you know whether this matter has been represented to Government?—Yes. I have done so myself.

638. Is there any probability of action being taken in the matter?—I fancy if we passed legislation it would be vetoed at Home.

639. You stated just now that about 20 families came on to your farm?—No. they were already on it.

640. You do not want the labour?—My son can always get all the labour he wants. I have never had a complaint that he could not get labour.

641. Then that is the best system?—Yes. you are always sure of labour.

642. Now if we offered these men the same terms, would we be able to get them?—Yes, you could get them then, if at all.

643. I suppose a reasonable wage would be £1?—Yes, that is what the stock farmer gives them, but you would have to provide for the whole family.

644. If you gave sufficient land, I suppose you would get the labour?—Of course you would have to feed the families. I give them land and a run,

and they pay me a small rent, and then they agree to work for me, and if I wanted extra labour at harvest time I could call on the women and children.

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645. They were satisfied with that?—Yes. A great deal depends on the master, however, and there are some men whom the natives boycott, and these cannot get labour at any price. My son had a partner who was boycotted, and he could not get any labour, and my son had to lend him his men.

646. *Mr. Rogers.*] I would like to ask what rent these families pay for the plot of ground they hire?—Well, it varies; my tenants pay me £20 a family.

647. Is that about the average?—I think so.

648. Then it is a paying business?—Yes, and many men let out their whole farms.

Wednesday, 21st August, 1907.

PRESENT :

MR. CLAASSENS (Chairman.)

Mr. Wilmot.

Mr. Barrable.

Mr. Rogers.

Mr. Michau.

Mr. Hurndall.

Mr. J. N. P. de Villiers.

Mr. Robert James Dick, examined.

649. *Chairman.*] Where do you live?—King William's Town.

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650. You are the Magistrate there?—Yes. I am a Special Magistrate for the natives there.

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651. You know the object of this Committee?—Yes.

652. Have you any locations near King William's Town?—Yes, a large number. There is a large native population.

653. What tribes are they mainly?—Various tribes.

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654. Do the farmers have any difficulty in getting labourers?—Yes, some, but it is largely an individual matter. I was farming in the neighbourhood for twenty years and never had any difficulty in getting farm servants, but we had a plan by which a native family was allowed a certain amount of land to plough for himself, and in return we required him to give service. These were in addition to the regular servants who were in receipt of food as well as wages. This plan guarded against the difficulty of getting extra servants when we wanted them at special times. Those that follow this plan never have any difficulty with regard to labour.

655. Do you think they would be willing to go out?—They might on certain conditions; they would require a run for their stock and a piece of land. An offer was made from Rhodesia on these terms, but only a few Fingoes went.

656. Would it not be possible to get labour through the medium of the magistrate?—I doubt whether you would be successful. Large numbers of natives go to East London, Port Elizabeth, Cape Town and Kimberley, also numbers go out on contract under the Labour Agent Act and there are a small number who go out to farms.

657. In these locations what do they live on?—The tribal native on the stock and produce which he raises from the land.

658. What do they grow?—During the last few years an advance has been made in this direction by the natives, they now produce most of the vegetables as well as mealies, etc.

659. Can you make any recommendations to us to get these labourers out?—I do not think so in the face of the attractions of higher wages from the mines, besides they would rather go to the seaport towns than work on the farms.

660. *Mr. Wilmot.*] Your experience has been great, and you know the natives well, can you suggest any system by which farmers could get

labour?—I do not think so. The most attractive form of inducement for the native is to offer him a small piece of land and allow him to keep stock. Whether it is possible to do that in the Western Districts I do not know, the conditions are likely to be different.

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661. What do you think of Co-operative societies joining together and getting a large number of natives together into locations?—Would that be with a view of forming a native reservation?

662. No, not exactly. You do not see any other plan of getting them on to the land?—No. The native is very suspicious until he knows the system and the individuals under whom he is to work, but you are more likely to get your labour that way than in any other way.

663. *Mr. Barrable.*] Is there a plentiful supply of labour in those parts?—Yes, in the district of King William's Town.

664. And in the Transkei?—Yes. Large numbers go out from there under contract to the mines.

665. Do you know of any other means than by giving them land?—Of course, you have a large number who come down to find work at the docks, etc.

666. But the object of this Committee is to get labour on the farms?—The system I have already mentioned is the only one which has worked in the district itself.

667. There seems to be a difficulty in obtaining land for natives in the Western Province; the land is all used up, and some other means must be found to induce the natives to come out. Do you know of any such?—No. In ordinary times and times of bad seasons there is an abnormal labour supply, and it is cheap, but in good times the native can stay at home and supply his wants from his own land.

668. *Mr. Rogers.*] I think you stated that you were farming twenty years ago?—I was farming for some years thirty years ago.

669. Do the raw Kafirs take kindly to hard

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work?—Yes, under certain circumstances. Of course farm work is very hard.

670. But I thought the raw Kafir looked upon himself as a gentleman and looked down on all labour?—I do not think that is the view I would take of it. Of course they are not impressed with the dignity of labour from our point of view, that is, the gospel of labour, he won't work unless for some direct purpose.

671. There has been a change in this respect recently then?—Yes, thousands go out now for hundreds that went out some time ago. Another point is, that the locations are getting overcrowded and this drives many of them out.

672. Do you not think they are lazy as a class?—Not really as a class.

673. The point I want to ascertain is whether you think there is an improvement in the way of the natives seeking work?—Yes, I think every year will add to the number who go out to work.

674. *Mr. Michau.*] Are many of the natives in your district on private locations?—Some, but the bulk are tribal locations, that is the land on which the natives were found to be living at the close of the different wars.

675. Is there any Kafir farming done in your district?—Yes, a great deal.

676. Are the police allowed to supervise these locations?—Yes, they are under the control of the police.

677. Have they power to clear out vagrants?—If the police find a larger number of natives living on a farm than is right, he can go to the farmer and find out from him how many families he is allowed, and if there are more than he is allowed proceedings are immediately taken against him in the Magistrate's Court.

678. Are there any able-bodied men on these locations?—Yes, a large number.

679. Would you be in favour of a more stringent Vagrancy Act?—As far as our experience goes I

think the present Act is sufficient. At present, when the police find a large number of natives on a man's farm, if he has no licence he is reported to the Divisional Council which fixes the number of men allowed on each farm. Another form of vagrancy, is of men found wandering about on farms, and in such cases they have to show what right they have to be there.

680. *Mr. Hurndall.*] Have you any knowledge of locations in the coast districts?—No, not sufficient to express an opinion.

681. Of course there are a large number of natives and we want to get these on to our farms, how can this be done?—If there are no Crown Lands there must be some other arrangement.

682. Would they come out and work for farmers if they lived in similar locations?—On these locations the number is limited by law, and they are either sub-tenants or are working the land on the halves system.

683. Do you think that the halves system has done any harm?—No. I think it has done good.

684. Don't you find a number of loafers on the farms?—It is a bad system if there is no white man living on the farm.

685. Do you find a tendency on the part of the native to drift into the town?—Yes, and there are a number who prefer to hire themselves as town boys and they try to get such situations.

686. As a rule the native prefers to remain near his location does he not?—From choice he would naturally prefer to stay at home.

687. What effect has beer drinking?—A bad effect.

688. Do not those farmers who allow beer always get work?—Not always, but of course they find it easier than those who prohibit it altogether.

689. Would it be a bad thing to prohibit beer making altogether?—Yes, the Kafir has very few pleasures and beer drinking is one of the few things they can practice in accordance with their

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old customs. I do not think any harm follows from private brewing, say, up to five or seven gallons of beer. It is beneficial in the matter of diet, for the native does not eat vegetables to the same extent as the white man, and in that way his beer is necessary, and for this reason it would be a mistake to stop brewing and prevent beer drinking.

690. Do you not find that they are now making an intoxicating beer from sugar, golden syrup and such things?—Not to any extent, but I think that the beer now made is stronger than it used to be, it is now six or seven per cent. whereas it used to be four.

691. How do you account for the scarcity of labour?—The congregating of numbers of natives in the locations. They will hold on to the land as long as they can live on it, but the day must come when they must go out, and that might be hastened by introducing the system of individual tenure. Under this system each man owns his own plot of land, and the time must come when all the land will be cut up and distributed.

692. Do you find there is a greater willingness on the part of the native to go out to work in the Eastern districts?—Yes.

693. Have you any knowledge of municipal locations?—Only in Port Elizabeth, King William's Town and East London.

694. How does your location work?—Very well indeed. I think it is a model location.

695. Are there no complaints?—None. In the Ginsberg location at King William's Town the Council built huts each of which had a piece of ground attached. There are a number of sanitary regulations, and there is an inspector resident in the location, whose business it is to make inspections several times a day; in addition to him there is the Borough Ranger, who also inspects this location.

696. Can you give us any information of Port

Elizabeth location?—No. I was sent down there, and I suggested that the Government should purchase a certain property and form a location. This is, I understand, now one of the best worked locations in the Colony.

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697. Do you think recruiting for the mines has any effect on the labour supply?—Yes. It stands to reason a farmer cannot give a wage of two shillings a day, consequently the boys go where they get the most money.

698. They prefer that to farm labour?—Yes, because they do not have to stay so long away from home, not more than three or six months.

699. *Mr. de Villiers.*] What are the native tribes mostly in your district, are they Gaikas?—Yes Gaikas, Fingoes and Tindies.

700. Have you any acquaintance with Transkeian natives?—Yes.

701. What is your opinion with regard to the probability of obtaining labour from the Transkei?—I do not think that you would be successful, as Fingoes do not like farm labour.

702. What about the Tembus?—They are not more inclined to come on to the farms than the others.

703. A witness who has appeared before us seems to think that we could get labour?—You may be able to but I do not think so.

704. Are the Tembus an industrious race?—Not more so than Gaikas or any of the others.

705. It was suggested that through the Magistrates and police officers they could be induced to take service?—I should very much doubt that. I think that where a Magistrate has been successful was in connection with a large scheme where a number were taken on under contract for some Government work. In such a case the Magistrate would call on the chiefs who, when satisfied with the conditions, would call on the young men.

706. But for farm labour?—If I went to the location to try and induce men to go out the first

Mr. R. J. Dick. questions which would be asked would be, "What is he like?" "Does he feed you well?" "Does he swear lots and use the sjambok?" "I should not be able to answer those questions, and it would be very difficult to persuade the natives to go out.

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707. With regard to conveyance, you know the Government are willing to assist in this matter?—Yes, private individuals.

708. Would that not be an inducement?—Yes, it would be an inducement to men to go out.

709. Would the Government assist families or only single men?—I have no knowledge on that point, but it would only be reasonable for them to convey the families.

710. If we could offer them a plot of land, and grazing for a certain amount of stock, would that help?—Yes, that would be an inducement; and if the first families reported favourably, you would be able to increase your supply of labour.

711. Do you think it would be of any use to send a man down to that district to try to get natives?—No, unless a farmer went who happened to be known to some of the natives who could report favourably about him.

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